

Bulletin of the

January 2008

A M E R I C A N

IRIS SOCIETY

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Texas Guest Gardens:

Above: Dromgoole's Natural Garden

Below: San Marcos



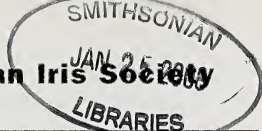
Bulletin of the American Iris Society

ISSN 0747-4172

Volume LXXXIX, No. 1

Series No. 348

January 2008



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The *Bulletin of the American Iris Society* is published quarterly by The American Iris Society. Publishing Office, 10606 Timber Ridge Street, Dubuque, IA 52001-8268. Periodical postage paid at Cedar Hill, MO, and at additional mailing offices. Subscription price is included in membership dues. All copy due in Editor's office by Nov. 15 (Jan.), Feb. 15 (April), May 15 (July), Aug 15 (October). This Bulletin was printed by Bridgetown Printing. Copyright © 2007 The American Iris Society.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Bulletin of the American Iris Society, 10606 Timber Ridge Street, Dubuque, IA 52001-8268

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www.irises.org

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The American Iris Society

Officers & Directors

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY IS A NONPROFIT INSTITUTION INCORPORATED February 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the Iris.

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Front Cover: Is anybody home? 'Boutique Fashion' (Ernst '99) with Dragonfly in the McVickers Garden
during the National Convention in Okiahoma, 2007

Photo credit: Aitken

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(Contact Section for overseas postage rates)

	<i>single annual</i>	<i>single triennial</i>	<i>dual annual</i>	<i>dual triennial</i>
Median Iris Society	\$8.00	20.00	9.00	23.00
Society for Siberian Iris	10.00	25.00	12.00	30.00
Spuria Iris Society	9.00	20.00	12.00	24.00
Society for Japanese Iris	5.00	12.50	6.00	15.50
Reblooming Iris Society	7.00	18.00	8.00	21.00
Society for PCNs	8.00	20.00	10.00	23.00
Species Iris Group (SIGNA)	12.00	32.00	12.00	32.00
Dwarf Iris Society	6.00	15.00	8.00	18.00
Historic Iris Preservation Society	10.00	24.00	12.00	30.00
Aril Society International	10.00	28.00	13.50	33.50
Society for Louisiana Irises	13.00	32.00	16.00	44.00

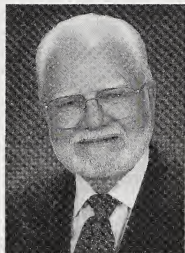
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President's Message

E. Roy Epperson, North Carolina

The operative word that I would like to adopt for AIS for the next three years is "Wow". "Wow" as a noun is a U.S. slang word meaning "A striking success." At my home institution, High Point University, we have a full-time staff person whose title is "Director of Wow". That person is charged with two tasks: (1) To continually identify those "un-wow" areas on campus (such as a broken sidewalk), and (2) To help make each and every interaction with the campus a "Wow" experience, from publications to general campus appearance to building facades and lobbies and classrooms. I invite each of you to become a "Director of Wow" for The American Iris Society. Please be proactive as well as reactive.



Are there current areas and programs of The American Iris Society that are less than "Wow"? And, if so, how can we working together get them up to "Wow" status? Communication with current and prospective society members may well be the most important area needing our attention.

- The AIS website (www.ais.org) is our portal to the gardening world. Our website should be second to none in the gardening world. The Board of Directors has committed funds for the Electronic Services Committee to study and implement a re-design of the website. This is no easy task and will need input from each of us as to what constitutes a "wow" website.
- The Board of Directors has also directed the Electronic Services Committee and the Public Relations and Marketing Committee, working together, to investigate the establishment of an AIS photo wiki for AIS members on the Members Only section of the AIS website.
- It has been said often that the most important product of The American Iris Society is the quarterly bulletin. Over the years, the bulletin, in content and appearance, has gradually matured into the current format. The Society is indebted to Jim Morris (July 2007) and Kelly Norris (October 2007) for their serving as guest editors. Managing Editor Terry Aitken has been invaluable in keeping the

bulletin in publication as we continue in transition with respect to editor(s). Has the bulletin reached full “wow” status? Probably not. Each issue brings one or more complaints about content or photographs, or..... However, I must say to you as my University President says to me and the other staff, “Don’t bring me negative concerns unless you also have a suggestion for improvement.”

Other areas and programs that need to be addressed in the next year are:

- The continuing decrease in membership of The American Iris Society.
- Serious consideration as to the format of conventions.
- The need to re-assess the geographical boundaries of the 24 Regions of AIS.

Yes, the Board of Directors does hear and take action on concerns of the membership. At the Fall Board meeting in Durham, NC, the titles of master and emeritus judges were re-instated! We heard you loud and clear!

The Bylaws of The American Iris Society state: “During the President’s term of office, the President shall have general superintendence of the affairs of the AIS.” As you have now elected me as the 25th President of The American Iris Society, I ask your help and support in carrying out this mandate. And as Ron Mullin wrote in his first President’s Message in 1984 “Any organization is only as good as its members, and the president can only be as good as the support he receives.” Please help me continue the excellent leadership of Jeanne Clay Plank, Immediate Past President. 🌸

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Guest Editor's Message

Terry Aitken, Vancouver, WA

My sincere apologies to the folks in Austin, Texas. They have worked long and hard under the guidance of Paul Gossett in preparation for the National Convention in 2008. Because of the early date for this convention, they had delivered registration information to me for insertion into the October Bulletin. It did not happen. We are making every effort to get this issue in the mail so that people can meet the early registration deadline in mid February.

While many people look upon the guest editor role as a temporary solution, I am in favor of continuing this program. Guest editors may be located anywhere that e-mail can reach them. I have enjoyed working with Jim Morris and Kelly Norris this past year. Kelly will be back as guest editor for the April issue. I would encourage potential guest editor candidates to contact me about taking on an issue. This process obviously takes more and better communication than dealing with the Bulletin single handedly. There is a need for team players and good communications. A diversity of interests by more than one editor should also be reflected in the content of the bulletin and the membership should benefit.

It has come to our attention that a reciprocal arrangement for advertising was set up with the British Iris Society many years ago. Please note the ad to join BIS in this issue. They produce an outstanding publication with much material that is of interest to irisarians world wide.

There seems to be some continuing confusion about the use of seedling pictures in the *Bulletin*. Since I was a part of the committee that set up the policy about 12 years ago, I can assure you that no change has occurred since then. The use of pictures of seedlings is acceptable IF USED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES in the bulletin. One reason for the "Hafts? – or not!" article is to make that point. Another reason is the "wow factor" that Dr. Epperson refers to in his president's message. As our digital library expands, we should have many more opportunities to share pictures with the membership. We will explore haft patterns in other categories of irises. 

An Invitation to the 2008 AIS National Convention in Austin, Texas

by David Lewis Steed, Ph.D., Texas

You are cordially invited to attend the 2008 National Convention of the American Iris Society hosted by the Austin, Texas Chapter of the AIS with support from the other affiliates throughout Texas (Region 17). The convention is EARLY (April 14-19, 2008) as our tall bearded iris begin blooming in late March and are in full bloom by mid-April. You can enjoy the convention in Austin and have the rest of the spring for other activities. Pre-convention tours to local attractions will be available as will be the usual informative presentations and exhibits. We have seven host gardens to be toured with over three thousand rhizomes planted since the fall of 2006.

Whether you prefer taking your break indoors or outdoors, Austin is a modern city with a diversity of attractions which will appeal to you: natural history sites, acclaimed restaurants and golf courses, the Highland Lakes, wildflower and birding tours, live music, numerous cultural and educational activities and more. If you have ever visited Austin, then you know it is a great place to visit or live. Native Austinites and recently arrived residents agree, Austin has great vibes.

Because Austin is such a great place to live, the city has attracted numerous technology companies for locating their essential research and development and even manufacturing activities in campus-like settings within attractive surroundings. Mature companies such as 3M, IBM, SAS and SBC have major centers here. Spin-off companies fostered on the west coast have come here in numbers. These and other companies have attracted the technical, management and financial expertise and talent to spawn home-grown companies such as Dell Computing, AMD, and many software and electronic component start-ups, some very successful. Emerging technologies are at the heart of Austin's vibrant economy. As a result, Austin has been dubbed the "Silicon Hills."

Austin is geographically centered at the eastern edge of the Edwards plateau (the Hill Country) and fronts on the Blackland Prairie, the Coastal Prairie, and the Cross Timbers (oak belt) of the southern Great Plains. If you enjoy natural scenery or outdoor recreation, you will find opportunities in

Central Texas: woodlands, hills, prairies, clear flowing spring-fed streams and lakes. No matter the direction traveled from Austin, differing scenic panoramas are evident, especially during mid-April, which is the peak of the wildflower season. Given adequate winter and early spring rains, wildflowers will be breathtaking in one or more sectors: south, east, north or west. Locally, the Lady Bird Johnson National Wildflower Research Center, now a division of the University of Texas, provides pleasing wildflower vistas nearly year-round.

Texas's Colorado River flows through downtown Austin. Upstream (north and west) the Highland Lakes were constructed on the river in the early to mid-twentieth century to control flooding. The lakes are now a major recreational attraction hosting world-class fishing tournaments, water skiing competition and exhibitions, sailboat races, party boat tours, parasailing, swimming and scuba diving opportunities. Over a half dozen golf courses already overlook lakes Travis and Austin.

The Austin community has done more to preserve open space (and wildlife) than most cities many times its size through managed water quality lands and protected species habitats. The country's largest urban nature preserve (over 30,000 acres of open space and habitat for twenty endangered species) co-owned and managed by the City of Austin and Travis County, is largely inside the Austin city limits. The Congress Avenue bridge across the Colorado River is the summer home to a breeding population of Mexican free-tailed bats. The daily departure of over 1.5 million bats just before dusk is one the country's most spectacular wildlife events and can be viewed from numerous area hotels, restaurants and other public vantage points. The bats can consume as much as 20,000 pounds of insects in a single night. Zilker Park, home of the now famous Barton Springs, pool, and a botanical garden are within sight of the state capitol.

Austin has been called the cultural center of Texas. It is the state capital and home of the University of Texas and the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library. Austin hosts a symphony orchestra, a ballet and a lyric opera company. It has been called the "Live Music Capital of the World" with over 100 live music venues featuring specialty clubs offering blues, jazz, rock, reggae, folk and country music. Hundreds of musicians, poets, writers, and performers call Austin home. Travel in any direction from Austin and encounter delightful small towns and villages which still retain much of the rich cultural identity of the region's early settlers: Czech, Polish, German, Spanish, French, Austrian, Alsatian, and many others with their ethnic diversity reflected in their architecture, festivals, restaurants and music.

Normally Central Texas is a nearly perfect place to grow iris, especially the tall bearded iris. Soils are limey or alkaline except on the Blacklands. Rainfall is in moderation (most of the time) and reasonably distributed between spring and fall months. Winters are mild and normally dry, and

summers are hot with plenty of sun. Our 2007 spring show was held in the midst of a rare late winter storm with snow, sleet and freezing rain and we still had nearly 200 tall bearded iris entries. The following week was sunny and warm with temperatures back in the sixties and seventies.

We hope to see you in Austin next April. Remember: it's the Lone Star State in 2008. Come early, stay long, and enjoy a real Central Texas experience. 

Convention Overview

When: April 14–19, 2008

Where: Austin, Texas

Location: Omni Hotel Southpark; 4140 Governors Row;
Austin, Texas 78744
(512) 448-2222 (phone); (512) 442-8028 (fax)

Registration Fees:

Full Registration:

\$199, postmarked by Feb. 15, 2008

\$225, postmarked by Mar. 15, 2008

\$250, postmarked after Mar. 15, 2008

Youth (18 and under): \$130

Garden Tours Only:

\$130, postmarked by Feb. 15, 2008

\$155, postmarked by Mar. 15, 2008

\$180, postmarked after Mar. 15, 2008

Banquets Only: \$40 each

Awards Banquet Entrees: Chicken or Pork Loin

Optional Tours:

Austin \$44 (Tues. and Wed.)

Fredericksburg \$48 (Tues. and Wed.)

Guest Gardens:

Austin (3), Round Rock, San Marcos, New Braunfels, La Grange

Hotel rates: \$99 per night (until March 23, 2008)

Online reservations available; follow links from our website:

<http://www.irisarian.com/lonestar2008>

Roommate Program available: Char Holte; 17308 W Observatory Rd;
New Berlin WI 53146; <cholte@wi.rr.com>

Austin 2008:

Seven Guest Gardens

by Nelda Moore, Texas

Seven Guest Iris Gardens in the Austin area await the eager irisarians registered for the Lone Star State in 2008 National Iris Convention. A few iris have beautiful blooms dancing in the cool winds that blew in from the north, thus lowering the temperature at least 20 degrees from yesterday's record high of 85 degrees on this December morning.

John Dromgoole's Natural Gardener

John Dromgoole's Natural Gardener at 8648 Old Bee Cave Road in the Oak Hill area of West Austin provides an interesting setting for the master garden with curving rows of bearded iris leading toward the Louisianas, Siberians, and spurias in the back near an Indian tepee and a special meditation garden of ornamental grass growing in concentric circles along gravel paths. Roger Igo watches over this masterpiece organic nursery, which also has a unique gift shop on the nursery grounds.

The Roger and Marney Abel Garden

After conventioners leave John Dromgoole's Natural Gardener via the back gate, buses can cross Southwest Parkway and visit a gated area past the rented estate of the Texas governor and his family while the mansion downtown is closed for renovation. Roger and Marney Abel possess a fantastic garden surrounding an ornate swimming pool. A sculpture of dolphins will greet those who stop long enough to marvel the poetic features of this mansion at 8045 Chalk Knoll Drive. An Arizona landscape borders the Abel's outstanding iris garden built up by limestone slabs of rock. The meandering beds extend along the back wrought iron fence which encloses these formal gardens tended by the Abels and one of their sons.

The Bannockburn Baptist Church Garden

In South Austin the Bannockburn Baptist Church at 7100 Brodie Lane towers upwards, a beacon to the gardens surrounding the sanctuary and buildings that are lovingly tended by Jack Campbell and members

of the congregation, who provide a little bit of heaven on earth with roses, irises, water features, annuals, and even a unique bamboo plant that has been polished black. Although the Guest Iris Garden is small, the setting is exquisite.

The Brushy Creek M.U.D. Garden

Horticulturist Rachel Hagan and a bevy of school children master the Brushy Creek Municipal Utility District Community Center at 16318 Great Oaks Drive in Round Rock north of Austin. The fenced haven contains a water feature and a xeriscape garden that she designed and a large pavilion, where conventioners can relax while they count deer in a distant pasture.

The Lee and Sandy Schroeder Garden

Located near New Braunfels, between Austin and San Antonio, the Lee and Sandy Schroeder Farm contains a Guest Iris Garden with fruit trees and companion plants nearby, graced with splendid horses in the adjoining pastures and a whimsical folly/storage shed inspired by Winnie the Pooh. This is Sandy's garden, while Lee oversees the newly added garden near the San Marcos Tourist Information Center just off Interstate 35.

The San Marcos Tourist Information Center Garden

This impressive circular garden was designed by Lee and was constructed with paving stones which hold high a multitude of exquisite irises. It has been adopted by the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce and will be a permanent iris garden for years to come.

The Ed and Janet Murphy Garden

Between Austin and Houston, just south of the town of La Grange, is a formal setting near a small lake off Hauseman Gin Road. This is the Ed and Janet Murphy Guest Garden with many raised beds bordered by large blocks of white limestone. An old barn adds charm to this picturesque, rustic location.

Pictures of the gardens can be seen at the 2008 A.I.S. National Convention website: <http://www.irisarian.com/lonestar2008> .

Y'all come see us. Texas is truly a whole new country that the Iris Society of Austin has tried to cover with irises. 

New Listing Layout for 2008

By Ashley Lewis, Iris Society of Austin, Texas

The Austin Iris Society's 2008 Convention Executive Committee is pleased to announce a new convention booklet listing design to help conventioners evaluate cultivars quickly and easily. On completing all of the garden tours, users will be able to see at a glance how each cultivar scored across all the guest gardens.

By investing a few minutes of study ahead of time, users should find the new format very easy to use. It is designed to save garden visitors the trouble of thumbing through the booklet to compare specimens from one garden to the next, which should also make voting easier.

The examples on these pages provide a preview of this new layout so you can become familiar with it and get ready to make the best use of the convention booklet this coming April in Austin, Texas.

Two Complete Listings

Since most conventioners are interested in either a certain cultivar or hybridizer, the new listings layout reflects those preferences.

Conventioners will quickly notice that the 2008 convention booklet includes just two listings - "Hybridizer" and "Cultivar." Both of the two listings are complete, featuring all cultivars in all guest gardens.

The listings are organized in two ways:

- Hybridizer - alphabetized by hybridizer, then by cultivar
- Cultivar - alphabetized by cultivar

Garden Codes and Legends

Each individual listing of a cultivar features two-letter codes that identify all of the gardens in which that cultivar occurs.

This legend appears at the bottom of every listing page to help users identify each garden by its code:

Legend: NG - Natural Gardener; AB - Abel; BB - Bannockburn;
BC - Brushy Creek; MU - Murphy; SM - San Marcos; SC - Schroeder

Bottom of 2008 booklet listings page; garden code legend

The Hybridizer Listing

Entries in the Hybridizer Listing appear in alphabetical order, first by hybridizer, then by cultivar. The listing type (Hybridizer) is identified at the top of each page. Page numbers are on the outside top edge, with the first entry for that page immediately below the page number.

Hybridizer Listing			Page 1 Aitken		
Hybridizer Cultivar	Type	Year	Gardens & Region		
Aitken			NG		
00M20-1B	IB		MU	SM	'Out'
Aitken			NG		
Blue Persuasion	TB	2005	MU	SM	'Out'
Aitken			NG		

Top of page 1,
Hybridizer Listing

In this example, the first entry under the column headers includes the following features:

Hybridizer: Aitken

Cultivar: 00M20-1B

Type: IB

Year: (blank, not yet named) **Region:** Out

Gardens: • NG (Natural Gardener)
• MU (Murphy)
• SM (San Marcos)

Users can quickly identify every garden in which a cultivar is located and score and compare specimens across all gardens.

Garden codes always appear in the same position in each entry. If a position is blank (no garden code), that indicates the cultivar does not occur in that garden. Users should find enough space next to each garden code for their own scoring marks, codes and comments.

The Cultivar Listing

The main difference in the Cultivar Listing is that entries are alphabetized by cultivar. Again, the listing type (Cultivar) is identified at the top of each page, as is the page number and the first entry for that page.

Page 18 Bering Lagoon			Cultivar Listing		
Cultivar Hybridizer	Type	Year	Gardens & Region		
Bering Lagoon			NG	BB	
Nichols, H.	TB	2004	MU	SM	TX-17
Betty Boop			NG	AB	
Sutton, G.	SDB	2006	MU	'Out'	

Top of page 18,
Cultivar Listing
In the example at left, the first entry under the column headers includes the following features:

Cultivar: Bering Lagoon

Hybridizer: Nichols, H.

Type: TB

Year: 2004

Region: TX-17 ('In')

Gardens: • NG (Natural Gardener)
• BB (Bannockburn Church)
• MU (Murphy)
• SM (San Marcos)

Feedback Welcome:

We'll listen for your feedback at the convention, or please feel free to email the booklet's compiler, Ashley Lewis: citizen@texas.net 



Lone Star State 2008

AIS National Convention

Sponsored by the Iris Society of Austin

Austin, Texas — April 14 - 19, 2008

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS: Omni Hotel Southpark

4140 Governors Row; Austin, Texas 78744

Reservations may be made by

Phone: (512)448-2222, Fax: (512)442-8028, or online

Follow the link on our website: <http://www.irisarian.com/lonestar2008>

Name _____ Region _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____ E-mail _____

Attending Spouse or 2nd Person _____

Youth (s) _____

Emergency Contact Person _____ Phone _____

Name tags will be made as printed above.

If this is your FIRST AIS Convention, check this box: ☐

Full Registration: Postmarked By: Feb 15 '08 Mar 15 After Mar 15

Includes Welcome, Registrant # 1 ☐ \$199 ☐ \$225 ☐ \$250 Amount _____

Awards Banquets & Registrant #2 ☐ \$199 ☐ \$225 ☐ \$250 Amount _____

Garden Tours.

Youth 18 & under: No. of Youth _____ X \$125 Amount _____

(Includes same as full registration)

Garden Tours Only: Registrant #1 ☐ \$130 ☐ \$155 ☐ \$180 Amount _____

(Includes bus, lunch Registrant #2 ☐ \$130 ☐ \$155 ☐ \$180 Amount _____

& convention booklet)

Banquets Only: Welcome Banquet Awards Banquet

(No convention Registrant #1 ☐ \$40 ☐ \$40 Amount _____

booklet or bus.) Registrant #2 ☐ \$40 ☐ \$40 Amount _____

Please select your choice for the Awards Banquet:

Registrant #1 Chicken ☐ Pork Loin ☐

Registrant #2 Chicken ☐ Pork Loin ☐

GEEK DINNER: Registration for the Geek Dinner should be made to Joanne Prass-Jones, 35572 Linda Dr., Fremont, CA 94536. E-mail: joanne@usjoneses.com

OPTIONAL TOURS:

Tuesday, April 15, '08

☐ Austin City Tour \$44

☐ Fredericksburg Tour \$48

Wednesday, April 16, '08

☐ Fredericksburg Tour \$48

☐ Austin City Tour \$44

Amount _____

Amount _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

PAYMENT MAY BE MADE BY CHECK OR CREDIT CARD.

WE ACCEPT VISA AND MASTERCARD.

☐ VISA

☐ MasterCard

Card # _____

Name on card: _____

(Please print)

Exp. Date: (Mo.) _____ (Yr.) _____

Signature: _____

Make checks payable to
AIS Convention 2008
and send with this form to
AIS Convention 2008
Kenneth W. Fuchs, Registrar
710 N. 11th St.
Temple, TX 76501-3016
Phone: (254) 773-5017

Registrations received after April 15, 2008, will be accepted at the discretion of the registrar.

Refunds for cancellations requested on or after April 1, 2008, will be made at the discretion of the Convention Committee.

SPECIAL NEEDS: If you need *special accommodations for disabilities* or if you have *special diet requirements*, please describe them here. Attach a separate sheet if necessary.

Geek Dinner Announcement

Have you heard the rumors? The Geek Dinner is the place to be! Don't know where to eat? Eat with the Geeks and all the non-geeks that have learned what a fun time everyone has.

First there is meeting with all your friends and then making new ones. If you happen to be a subscriber to one of the iris lists or electronic robins, you can meet other members and put faces to all those funny email names.

Then there is a pretty good meal. This year it will be Caesar Salad, rolls and butter, Lasagna, Almond Green Beans and Italian Cream Cake with berry sauce.

Then of course the real fun for the night... The Geek Dinner Auction where you get to bid on new iris introductions, gift certificates from commercial iris growers, iris themed items and the "piece de resistance" a petit-point broach in an iris motif donated by Jill Bonino.

Oh and of course some great doorprizes.

Now is the time to make plans for the, 8th annual Geek Dinner being held right in the convention hotel of the 2008 AIS National Convention. You don't have to be a "computer Geek" to join a group of wonderful people, Geek and non-Geek alike, who come together for this event every year. Meet new friends and catch up with old ones.

Last year's door prizes and auction items included generous gift certificates from hybridizers and iris items from friends. The proceeds from the auction go directly into the American Iris Society Electronics Services fund that sponsors such things as the digital projector for slide shows and the online iris databases. The tables always fill up fast and unfortunately some who have not pre-registered have to be turned away. PLEASE RSVP to me by Monday, March 31, 2008.

COST: \$29.00 (not included in convention registration)

DATE: Friday, Apr 18, 2008

TIME: 6:00 – 9:00 pm (of course you can leave the auction at any time)

LOCATION: Convention Hotel

RSVP: Joanne Prass-Jones; <Joanne@usjoneses.com>;
Phone: (510)795-9723

Make check payable to:

Joanne Prass-Jones; 35572 Linda Drive; Fremont, CA 94536

Also, if you have items to donate to the auction, please let Joanne know as soon as possible so we can prepare the auction. 

2008 Silent Auction

AIS National Convention, Austin, TX

We are holding the Silent Auction again at the AIS Convention Austin, TX! That means we need your contributions to ensure the success that we have enjoyed in the past years.

The Silent Auction has become a popular part of our conventions and it is a fun way to raise funds for the support of AIS. Many people have iris treasures they could donate and it is a great way for hybridizers to get their new introductions out to different parts of the country. We are looking for iris artifacts, iris books and new or recent iris introductions. However, if you would like to donate any other irises that are rare or unusual, that would work fine also. Just drop us a note and let us know what you have.

This year's convention is scheduled for April 14-19, 2008 so please let us know what you can donate no later than March 20, 2008 so we can prepare the bid sheets. Send a short note to our address below, e-mail us or call. We look forward to hearing from you.

Rita and Tom Gormley
10606 Timber Ridge Street,
Dubuque, IA 52001
GormleyGreenery@aol.com 

New Feature!

The Bulletin staff cordially invites all members to submit images of their garden for potential inclusion in a future issue of the AIS Bulletin. We want to see how your irises grow and what you are growing them with. The photo should be of appropriate composition to be considered a landscape shot suitable of placement in the inside rear of the issue. Send images to Terry Aitken, Managing Editor (contact information on page 1).

A Convention To Remember

2008 National Japanese Iris

Kalamazoo, MI, July 3, 4, 5

You are all invited to come to Kalamazoo for a good time. There will be 2 large gardens and 2 other very well landscaped gardens with JIs on tour for your enjoyment. There will be 2 days of tours so we promise not to wear you out.

We have planted 129 guest irises from 16 hybridizers.

Special features include a Thursday night light warm meal, another "famous fish fry" for one lunch, a Friday night outdoor grille, and of course we will have Anita doing another superb banquet.

There will be an auction of plants with proceeds going to the SJI Section.

The venue is the Latvian Heritage Center. Several nearby motels will be selected for your room reservations.

Everyone is invited to bring their slides of JIs and Pseudatas to show on Thursday night. You will be allowed up to 15 minutes for your slides. There will also be an hour of garden training on JIs and an hour of garden training on Pseudatas.

Cost is \$125 if received by May 15th and \$150 if received after May 15th.

Registrations should be mailed to:

Jim Welch; 9087 S 6th St.; Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Phone 269-544-2211

E-mail: joejoe500@sbcglobal.net

For more information contact:

Jim Copeland, Chairman; 78118 M-40; Lawton, MI 49065

Phone 269-624-1968

E-mail: jandjcope@aol.com

Or, for additional information, go to www.SocJI.org

2008 WILL BE GREAT! 

THE OKLAHOMA IRIS SOCIETY PRESENTS

OUR 2008 POLLEN DAUBER'S SEMINAR

WITH DAVE NISWONGER OF CAPE IRIS GARDENS

SPEAKING ON SPURIAS & BEARDED IRISES

SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH, 9 AM TO 3 PM, SEMINAR FEE: \$20

WILL ROGERS GARDEN CENTER, 3400 NW 36TH ST, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

FREE POT LUCK DINNER & SLIDE SHOW-FRIDAY, MARCH 7TH, 6:30 PM

QUESTIONS? CONTACT HUGH STOUT AT STOUTGARDEN@COX.NET, 405-843-7130

Honorary Awards for 2008

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE HONORED BY
THE BOARD OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
AT THE FALL BOARD MEETING, 2007.

Hybridizers Medals

BOB BAUER AND JOHN COBLE
JAN SACKS & MARTY SCHAFER

Distinguished Service Medal

JEANNE CLAY PLANK

Warburton Medal

SIDNEY LINNEGAR

Sidney Linnegar:

Nominated for the Warburton Medal

By Clarence Mahan, Virginia

Sidney Linnegar, one of the most beloved and respected denizens in the European world of irises, once told me that his infatuation with irises began when he was a child. As a teenager, his parents asked him to suggest a gift for a special academic achievement. He told his parents that more than anything else he wanted a copy of William Rickatson Dyke's *The Genus Iris*. This was the start of Sidney's lifelong iris book collecting pursuits.

Sidney Linnegar is the author, with G. E. Cassidy, of *Growing Irises* (London, 1982), a widely-read, gardening guide that most effectively promoted irises with European gardeners for more than two decades. He is also the author, with Jennifer Hewitt, of *Irises* (1992), a Wisley Handbook published by the Royal Horticultural Society. The impact that this little book has had on the horticultural world can easily be seen by doing a "Google search" using the words "Linnegar" and "Irises." You will find page after page after page. An updated edition of *Irises* is planned by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Sidney was for many years in charge of the iris collection at the University of Reading. This collection, primarily focused on species iris, was one of the finest in the world and explains why scientists there have in the past been able to do some of the most exciting and important research on species iris.

When Sidney became president of the British Iris Society in 2000, he had been a member of that society for 48 years. He was for many years the society's Show Secretary and performed innumerable services for the society. He declined consideration for higher office while his invalid wife was alive because he would not attend events where he could not take her in the wheelchair. Sidney single-handedly cared for and tended to the needs of his wife for more than 20 years.

Since his wife's death, Sidney has served as the BIS president (2000-2003) and as its librarian, a position he still holds. In 1999, the designated BIS member of the panel of judges at International Iris Competition in Florence, Italy was forced to withdraw shortly before the event. The organizers asked Sidney if he would judge the competition, and without hesitation he flew to Italy. It is what people who know Sidney have come to expect of him.

Quiet, unassuming, with a smile for everyone, Sidney has a wonderful sense of humor and a capacious heart. There only are a few people in the world of irises who know as much as Sidney does about irises and none who know more. He has spent a lifetime growing and promoting irises. His two books are monuments to his life's work. 

Section Happenings

Jim Morris, Section Liaison Consultant

The Board Heard You!

For the majority of AIS Judges who expressed their displeasure regarding the Judge title changes of a year ago, there is good news - the AIS Board of Directors heard you, and in a near unanimous decision voted to return to the previous Master Judge and Emeritus Judge titles. It seems that many were humbled enough by being senior citizens that they did not want it carried over into their hobby avocation. Enough said!

The AIS Board of Directors Fall meeting was held in November and my wife and I decided to drive to North Carolina to enjoy the scenery. We drove east through the rolling hills of Kentucky, into the mountains of West Virginia, south through a corner of Virginia and finally down from 4,000+ feet altitude to the Carolina Piedmont. The Fall colors in West Virginia were at peak and floral plantings at state rest stops were gorgeous. What surprised me was there had been no freeze at high altitude in WV, yet at the NC Welcome Center all their annual plantings were black from a hard freeze earlier in the week. Go figure.

As I sit here writing this column just before Thanksgiving, I am enjoying a cut stalk of the IB rebloomer 'Eleanor Roosevelt' (Hans Sass/McDade 1933). Earlier I enjoyed the MTB 'Lady Emma' (F. Jones 86), and at a Thanksgiving Pheast for our Kirkwood Iris Society members the SDB 'Baby Blessed' (Zurbrigg 79) blessed our table. It is finally cold outside but the rebloomers add a warming ambiance to our life.

The major benefit of belonging to the various Sections of AIS is to receive their specialized bulletin, newsletter or yearbook. These are some remarkable publications that every AIS member should consider subscribing to via Section membership. Within the past five years we have seen a movement to color page usage in each organization dependent on the Section's ability to finance same. You owe it to yourself to check out the fine efforts of the various Section and Cooperating Societies. Since I am often asked who the various editors are, I will list them later in the column.

Historic Iris Preservation Society

The Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS) asked me to note a change of plans for 2009. They no longer will have a separate "HIPS Happening" following the 2009 AIS Kansas City Convention.

Instead, with the assistance of the Kansas City Convention Committee, HIPS display beds were set aside in three gardens on tour during the convention. HIPS extends a big thank you to the Greater Kansas City Iris Society members who made this possible.

HIPS Distinguished Service Award 2007

At the Spring 2007 AIS Convention in Oklahoma City, OK, Dave Silverberg was awarded the HIPS Distinguished Service Award. Silverberg of Mollala, OR in Region 13, has been an AIS member for about 45 years, served as Region 19 (New Jersey) RVP and as RVP Representative to the AIS board of directors. He was a charter member of HIPS and at one time grew about 700 varieties of historic iris along with about twice that many more modern iris. He served HIPS as Treasurer, Archivist/Historian and rhizome Sale Chairman. Dave was elected President in 1995 but stepped down to devote his time to his wife Nancy (Thomson) who was diagnosed with terminal cancer. As a Master Judge, Dave has always had an interest in historic irises and been supportive of the Historic Iris Preservation Society. His award was presented by Joe Spears, a past award recipient in 2003.

IRS Form 990 or Electronic Form 999 E-card - Affiliates, Regions, Sections

The AIS Treasurer, Jill Bonio reports the following: The IRS is instituting new requirements for 2008 that all Affiliates and Regions of the AIS that do not now file a Form 990 will be required to file an electronic Form E-card. She is awaiting detailed instructions from the IRS on exactly when this is due and specific information that will be required from each organization. The AIS Treasurer will be coordinating this and making the filings for Affiliates. By the time you receive this issue of the Bulletin, you may also have gotten the annual affiliation letter from Brad Kasperek, Affiliates Chairman. Stay tuned for additional information on AISDiscuss. NOTE: Many iris-related groups are receiving "bogus" or spam e-mails regarding 501 (c) (3) that "appear" to be coming from the IRS. Please assure your members that the IRS never contacts an individual by e-mail.

(continued next page)

Section/Cooperating Society Editor Listing

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cbuchheim@verizon.net

Society for Japanese Irises

Rita Gormley
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Society for Louisiana Irises

Tom W. Dillard
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Farmington, AR 72730
(479) 267-4901
tomd@pgtc.com

Society for Pacific Coast Native Irises

Gareth Winter
64 Michael Street
Masterton, New Zealand
011-64-06-3775373
GarethW@library.mstn.govy.nz

Society for Siberian Irises

(Vacant)
Contact President Judy Hollingworth

Species Iris Group of North America

(Vacant)
Contact President William Plotner

Spuria Iris Society

Darol Jurn
618 E. Via Maria St.
Goodyear, AZ 85338-1013
(623) 932-3412
djurn@prodigy.net

Future Section Conventions

We will continue to list all future mini-conventions in this column as the Sections and Cooperating Societies report them. In this spirit of cooperation it is hoped that conflicts can be pre-empted. Thanks to all Section/Cooperating presidents for communicating to me as the AIS Board's representative.

Society for Louisiana Irises

April 10-13, 2008, Lafayette, LA

April 23-26, 2009, Shreveport, LA

Aril Society Interational

Albuquerque Aril & Iris Society, "Aril and Median Trek"

April 23-30, 2008, Albuquerque, NM

Society for Japanese Irises

July 3-5, 2008, Kalamazoo, MI

Siberian/Species

June 2009, Twin Cities Area, MN

Spuria Iris Society

June 2010, Portland, OR 

Errata

A number of corrections were made by the AIS Board to the Minutes of April 30 – May 1, 2007 as printed on pages 68-72 in the October 2007 AIS Bulletin. Among them were:

- Page 68, John Jones was appointed instead of approved as Motion Monitor.
- Page 68, The word "wages" was corrected to compensation for the Managing Editor.
- Page 69, The word "salary" was corrected to compensation.
- Pages 70, 71 & 72, Correct the spelling of Michelle Snyder's last name.
- Page 71, Youth – correct from Cameron to Kameron Flowers.

It seems that 'Looky Loo' is destined to be one of those iris names whose spelling will bedevil editors such as 'Bumblebee Deelite' has done for years. Thanks to Georgie Johnson of Cooley Gardens for humorously pointing out the correct spelling to us with the comment, "At least it was 'lucky' that it was mentioned favorably three times in the July Bulletin!" It seems we misspelled it again as Lucky Loo in the October Errata listing!

And of course in the page 94 article 'Walker Ross' was the first Canadian iris to win an Exhibition Certificate (EC) in an AIS Show, not a High Commendation (HC) which is a garden award.

In "Donations to the AIS, in Memory of," Jack Norrich should have been spelled Norrick.

(Cont. pg 30)

Youth Views

Cheryl Deaton, California

I have so much to tell you that I really don't know where to start! I sincerely hope that by the time this reaches you, you have nominated a deserving youth for the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement. The deadline for nominations was January 31, 2008. Check in your October issue of the Bulletin for some of the characteristics the winning youth member should have. Awards will be presented at the AIS Convention in Austin, Texas.

Donation News

Due to the generosity of the donors, the Classroom Iris Project Youth Fund is fully subscribed and we recommend that future donations be made to one of the other youth funds. A new fund has been created thanks to a donation from the Oklahoma City Convention Committee – the Youth Cosgrove Convention Registration fund (YCCR). This fund is to be used to pay for the Convention registration of the winners of the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement. It is hoped that this will help to alleviate some of the cost of attending the National Convention. The General Youth Fund (GYF) can be used for a variety of projects, such as prizes for the annual Coloring Contest and is not restricted like the Clarke Cosgrove Youth Fund (CCYF) and the Classroom Iris Project Youth Fund (CIPYF). An endowment of \$10,000 from the estate of Jimmy Jones has been made to the CCYF. This money is restricted to use of the interest only. Jimmy was a longtime friend and colleague of Clarke. Thanks to all who donate for the benefit of our AIS Youth members.

Ackerman Essay Contest Topic

The topic for the 2008 Ackerman Essay Contest is "The Person Who Influenced My Love of Irises." Deadline this year will be early, March 15, 2008 so the judges will have ample time to decide the winners before the National Convention in Austin, Texas. This annual contest is operated by the AIS Foundation. There will be two prizes of \$100 each for writers in two categories, ages 12 and under, and ages 13 through 18. Entries should be sent to Claire Honkanen, PO Box 24, Signal Mountain, TN 37377, or e-mailed as an attachment to Claire at claire235@aol.com. To begin your essay, write down things about this person that makes them special to you, what they have done more than anyone else to encourage you, teach you,

show you, etc. Take some of these ideas and write sentences to support your ideas. Pick one idea to start the first paragraph, and explain yourself a little. Take some of the other ideas and make up the middle of your essay. Then, conclude your essay with sentences that support everything you've written. Check your spelling and punctuation (an adult can help you with this), and your essay is done! Wasn't that easy? If you get stuck, an adult can give you a little bit of help, but this essay is your own work! Double-check everything before you submit the final draft. Your essay must be 500 words or less. I am sure you can find many things about this person to share with all of us. Winning essays will be published in a future issue of the Bulletin.

Coloring Contest Winners

I am pleased to announce the winners of this year's Coloring Contest. The Overall winner is Victoria Adkins of Frenchburg, Kentucky in Region 7. Victoria's picture gathered the most votes of all the entries in the contest! Most Original was the picture submitted by Grace Farley of Lincoln, Nebraska in Region 21. She used a technique using glue mixed with color to create a "wash" effect. First place winners in the age categories are as follows: 7-9 yrs old, Pres Lang of Region 24; 10-12 yrs old, Sarah Green of Region 21; 13-15 yrs old, Miriam Winzer of Region 22; 16 - 18 yrs old, Victoria Adkins. This year's picture was submitted by Chris Raymond of Region 18. Judging was done by the attendees of the Region 15 Fall Meeting in San Diego, CA. All of them commented on how difficult it was to choose the winners. Cash prizes were awarded to all the entrants. Congratulations to everyone! See photo of coloring contest winning entry on page 48.

If you have a picture, article or news that you would like to share please send it to me either by snail mail or e-mail. I really enjoy hearing about special projects, show awards, and other activities that our youth members participate in. Suggestions and ideas are always welcomed! Send them to: Cheryl Deaton, 27218 Walnut Springs Avenue, Canyon Country, CA 91351-3314 or region15kids@hotmail.com. And don't forget to visit the youth website at www.youth-iris.com. Support AIS Youth - they are the future! 

www.theirisfarm.com

Andrew Wheeler Awarded AIS Scholarship

By Terry Aitken, Washington and Stephanie Markham, Massachusetts

Andrew Wheeler, a former AIS youth member, has been awarded an AIS scholarship for iris research.

Andy grew up in western Massachusetts, Region 1, where he started hybridizing when he was eight years old. Someone showed him how to pollinate an iris and he has been at it ever since. Andy worked with species, Siberians and Japanese irises. He received the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement in 1994. He graduated from Bates College, Lewiston Maine, in 2001 and worked at Harvard University for three years doing plant research prior to going to graduate school. He has been a member of the Western New England Iris Society and the Iris Society of Massachusetts. He joined AIS in 1992 and became an AIS Judge in 1996.

In June 2007 the Scientific Advisory Committee received a request for research grant funding from Andrew Wheeler, now a doctoral student at Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden and Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, CA. The scope of this funding request encompasses field and lab work involving three series and eight species of native North American beardless irises (Section *Limniris*: Series *Laevigatae*, Series *Prismatica* and Series *Tripetalae*). The goal of this phase of Andrew's research and current funding proposal is to explore relationships among these taxa, specifically whether or not DNA sequence data support their status as distinct taxa, and whether or not DNA sequence data point to evidence of a hybrid origin of *Iris versicolor*. 

Errata (cont.)

Phil Williams asked that a correction to an erroneous statement made in the opening paragraph in the October 2007 AIS Bulletin President's Message be printed in the January 2008 Bulletin. In his email letter to the AIS President following the publication of the 2007 October Bulletin, Phil stated: "I was never an AIS youth member. There was no such organization at the time and I paid full AIS dues."

Let the correction show: Phil Williams was never an AIS Youth Member, although he was an AIS member in his youth. 

KEITH KEPPEL

P. O. BOX 18154 SALEM, OR 97305
INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2008

TALL BEARDED

- FRENCH LILACS** ML 36" (Crystal Gazer sib X Poem of Ecstasy) Lilac blue and wistaria bitone, nice fragrance. #99-117G. \$45.00
- GITANO** ML 36" (Last Laugh X (Prince George x Braggadocio)) Wild! Peach standards over purple falls with apricot sunburst and solid red orange beards. #99-48N. \$50.00
- HIGH OCTANE** ML 42" (Tangled Web X (Charleston x (sdlg. x Power Surge))) Red brown plicata with intense golden lemon fall patch. #01-40A. \$50.00
- LA SCALA** EM 37" (Mysterious Ways sib X Paris Fashion) Orchid to lavender pink standards, falls pink, flame beards. #01-98A. \$45.00
- LEGERDEMAIN** ML 34" (Naughty Nights sib) Pale blue blend, falls shaded parchment, changing with weather and age. #99-168B. \$45.00
- MIDNIGHT PASSION** ML 32" (((Night Game x ((Tomorrow's Child x (Show Biz x Villain)) x Gallant Rogue)) x sib) X Fiery Temper) Mauve purple standards, velvety red black falls, bright tomato red beards. #99-120C. . . . \$45.00
- MONSOON MOON** EM 40" (Mysterious Ways sib X Trade Secret sib) Glistening olive yellow with great branching and growth habits. #00-110A. \$45.00
- MONTMARTRE** EM 33" ((Moonlit Water sib x New Leaf) X High Master) Bishops purple and velvety red purple bitone, with white luminata heart, narrow pale edges on well-ruffled petals. #01-49B. \$50.00
- NOUVEAU RICHE** VE-E 40" (Mysterious Ways sib X ((Rogue x Quito) x Island Dancer)) Brassy yellow standards shaded mauve, dandelion gold falls with small cream glint. #99-93A. \$45.00
- SILK ROAD** ML-VL 40" (Bollywood sib) Cream and lavender bicolor with heavy substance, ruffling, strong stems. #00-257H. \$50.00
- VENITA FAYE** EML 38" (Paris Fashion X Amiable) Broad pale pink and light lilac bicolor, beards white and soft pinkish red. #01-113A. \$50.00
- WEDDING BELLE** EM 46" (Fogbound X Heaven) Rich apricot cream shaded peach, pinkish coral orange beards. #00-232A. \$45.00
- and from Barry Blyth --**
- BEACH DANCE** M 36" (Glamour Pants sib) Salmon to coral rose blend, small bluish central blaze, vivid red beards. #L277-10. \$50.00

MEDIAN IRISES

- IMBROGLIO (BB)** ML 27" (Spring Twilight X Crystal Gazer) Rosy orchid violet, reddish orange beards. #00-216C. \$25.00
- SOFT WORD (IB)** ML 27" (Delirium X (Fancy Woman x Answered Prayers)) Light lemon, apricot and peach glaciata. #00-31A. \$20.00
- SPOOKY (IB)** M 22" (Delirium X (Spirit World x Answered Prayers)) Red mauve to red violet luminata, golden apricot haft and rim. #00-30A. \$20.00
- DEVIL'S NIGHT (SDB)** EM 14" (Devil Baby sib) Dark red black, pumpkin brown to mustard beards. #98-42B. \$15.00
- LEMON FREEZE (SDB)** EM 10" ((Bright Child sdlg. X (Sparkletts x Hot Jazz)) Lemon glaciata, white fall spot. #02-22A. \$15.00
- PROSPECTUS (SDB)** E 9" (Dollop X sib) White ground plic, narrow violet edge, blue violet styles, white and fire red beards. #00-9C. \$15.00
- RIBBONS (SDB)** E 9" (Prospectus sib) Plicata, violet blue edge on white; white beards red in throat. #00-9E. \$15.00
- ICON (MDB)** ML 8" (Fission Chips X Jive sib) Bright orange standards and rim around wine falls, orange red beards, dark green foliage. #02-35A. \$15.00

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Public Exhibits Toolbox

By Robert Pries, Missouri

The Public Relations Committee of AIS has a new project. We are creating a toolbox. It struck me some time ago that many of our affiliates do wonderful things in order to make their sales, exhibits and shows a success. Many clubs for example hand out a flyer at their sales with directions on how to plant an iris; a useful tool! What if we collected together a diverse array of tools that could be downloaded from the website or easily ordered? They would provide everyone with good tools that didn't have to be recreated every time we have a sale or show. With that in mind, I'm pleased to announce the Public Exhibits Toolbox! I think when you see what we have to offer on the AIS website you'll find something of use. And importantly if you have a tool that has been very useful, please share so that others might benefit as well. We welcome your ideas!

For new clubs, or those that have not had a show in a while, we will have a sample downloadable show schedule. All you will need to do is fill in the blanks (Date, Time, Place, etc.) and e-mail it to Jim Giles for approval. There will also be Show Schedule Covers and suggested show design classes that will satisfy the requirements of garden club judges. Hopefully we can make it easier for you to create a great iris show. We also will provide directions for obtaining free insurance certificates that are required by some venues. There will also be ideas for youth projects, posters, and display units.

Presently three large posters are offered that can brighten the backdrop of a show or sale. They can be attached so that they create a 4 x 6' tri-fold screen. These were done in PowerPoint and discs are available so that you can have them printed at your local office supply store. If you would like to create your own posters, directions can be sent as to how to make a PowerPoint poster. I am sure we have many graphic designers out there who might like to share a sample of their abilities. We would be happy to post others creations as long as they can be shared by all.

The Public Exhibit Toolbox is presently under construction. We hope to have the first offerings available in February. It will not be a static site and it will be fun to see it slowly develop. 

Hafts, or Not?

By Terry Aitken, Washington

In my earliest, most impressionable iris life, I had the good fortune to “walk the seedling fields” with Gus Schreiner. He was showing me some of his pet projects. In one of his contemplative moments, he said “We’ve spent a lifetime trying to clean up the haft marks on irises and now we actually have some people trying to put them back on!” I took his comments to heart and I have spent the next thirty years following his lead. But irises are not the only plants with haft marks. I once had an orchid grower describe haft marks as “landing lights for bees”. It might help to actually define what “haft marks” are. My off the cuff response is the area of the fall petals adjacent to the beards on bearded irises or beside the fall signals on beardless irises. Haft marks are the veins in the haft area which may be expressed in contrasting color from the rest of the haft surface.

For me to claim that haft patterns are easy to eliminate comes from 30 years of selecting breeder plants that have minimal haft patterns to start with. This is not necessarily “line breeding” which implies linear generations of related plants. It comes from a conscious effort to use plants in breeding that don’t express haft marks. This is followed by a conscious effort to reselect seedlings from populations that don’t express haft patterns. There have been some very interesting exceptions along the way, one of the most notable being ‘Concession’ (Aitken 02, TB). This plant evolved from a median x TB cross, thus producing a “small tall” at about 28”. It was registered as a tall bearded, and the haft pattern covered the entire fall petal uniformly to within a fraction of an inch of the petal edges (see photo).

The personal challenge for me is to follow the judge’s manual which states “Haft colorings must be judged on the basis of whether they add to or subtract from the appearance of the flower. “Rough” is a term which usually describes unpleasant color application, although intense haft colorings can be quite attractive. Sometimes these vein colorations do not extend far enough down the falls to be conspicuous, and these hafts are said to be “smooth”. Searching for acceptable haft patterns is my quest with this article.

We usually associate haft marks with tall bearded irises. However the other types, both bearded and beardless, deserve the same scrutiny. How about MDBs, Medians, Japanese, Siberian, Spurias, Louisianas, Pacific Coast hybrids, or Species? These will need to be explored in future Bulletins. 

Haft Marks?

Top photo: Concession (Aitken '02), Bottom photo: 'Expose' (Ghio '04)

Do the haft markings contribute to or detract from the uniqueness of these flowers?
Without the markings, would these flowers be more or less attractive and unique?



All "Hafts or Not"
photos: Aitken



Or Not!

Top Photo: 'Lunar Whitewash' (Innerst '03), Bottom Photo: 'Aitken #02T49' (Involves 'Cranberry Delight', 'Engaging', 'Fantasy Lace', 'Designer Gown' and 'Hawaiian Queen')

In these cases the haft veins are indentations and seem to project a "quilted" texture. The vein color matches the surrounding field color. Do these veins contribute to or detract from the flower?



Haft Marks?

Top photo: Aitken #05T16B (Pure as Gold x Tennessee Vol) x Next Millennium.
Does the haft pattern contribute or detract?

Bottom photo: Aitken #02T65 (Last Song x Queen of Angels)

This plant seems to have issues with its standards. If you are interested in exploring its potential, you have 4 options. Self it, Sib. cross it, remake the cross or compost it and move on.



Or Not!

Top Photo: 'Halo Again' (Frances Rogers '05) Bottom Photo: 'Snow Melt' (Michael Sutton '04)

In these cases, the haft marks are broken up into dots as is the field color between them. The result is a spray pattern. Do the haft dots contribute to or detract from the overall color pattern?



Haft Marks?

Top Photo: Aitken #05T20 (Lip Service x Carnival Ride) In this case, the haft veins are broken up by dots and display a spray pattern. The veins throughout the flower are slightly darker than the field color expressing a marbling affect.

Bottom Photo: Aitken #01T20 (Starship Enterprise x Conjuraton) Haft marks are obvious. The dilemma becomes one of forgiveness if there are other redeeming qualities that would justify moving forward with this seedling or succeeding generations?



Or Not!

Top Photo: Aitken #02T2 (Involves Code Red, Color Fusion all the way back to Pink Angel in '79) In the case of either plant on this page, would the presence of haft marks add or subtract from the esthetic quality of these flowers?

Bottom Photo: Aitken #04T30 (Involved parentage includes Copper Fusion, Crackling Caldera, Deliciously Different, Romantic Mood and Fringe Benefits) No sign of haft marks but the quilting effect of the haft veins is present. This is the character that we strive for.



Haft Marks?

Top Photo: Anton Mego #99/0393-2 The soft peach color, even with the excellent form, may not attract the same attention as it does with haft marks.

Bottom Photo: 'Neon Mama' (Baumunk '04) TB The haft marks seem to work for this iris when combined with wild and exotic color breaking on the rest of the falls.



Or Not!

Top Photo: 'Lost and Found' (Ghio '04)

Bottom Photo: 'Endearing Charm' (L. Painter '03)

Would either of these plants be considered more or less attractive with haft veining?



Hafts? Or Not!, Japanese Iris Style

By Terry Aitken, Washington

With Japanese irises, haft patterns (contrasting veins) seem to be an all or nothing proposition. They usually start at the edge of the signal and run all the way to the petal edges and not just at the hafts. These lines are such a common and dramatic occurrence that JI's are featured either way.

A new direction in recent years has been crosses between Japanese irises, *I. ensata* and *I. pseudacorus*. Hiroshi Shimizu has coined the haft patterns on these plants as the "Eye Shadow" irises. The *World Of Irises* describes the early work with this type of cross on page 301 with 'Aichi No Kagayaki'. (See photo on inside back cover of this bulletin.) While this plant displays only a hint of vein pattern, later crosses by Hiroshi Shimizu have had dramatic patterns. (See photo of 'Kurokawa No') Many of these will be on display at the Japanese Iris Convention in Michigan in June. Other people working with the *ensata/pseudacorus* crosses include Tony Huber in Canada and many hybridizers in the USA. We will see more of this type of plant. 

Newsflash

Our congratulations go to Clarence Mahan, former President of the American Iris Society, who has been awarded the Foster Memorial medal by the British Iris Society in 2007.



'Kurokawa No' (Hiroshi Shimizu) These "eyeshadow" irises appear to be sterile hybrids. Their bloom season corresponds to that of the Japanese irises. This particular cultivar is showing some signs of being a summer rebloomer, has exceptionally vigorous growth and good green foliage color. This plant will be on display at the JI Convention in Michigan.

Hafts?

Top Photo: 'Peacock Dance' (Marx 'Reg. '55)

Bottom Photo: 'Pinkerton' (Bauer/Coble '99)

Do the vein patterns contribute to or detract from the uniqueness and beauty of these flowers?



Or Not!

Top Photo: 'Rose Adagio' (Payne '69)

Bottom Photo: 'Rosewater' (Bauer/Coble '96)

Would the addition of veins contribute or detract from these flowers?



Hafts?

Top Photo: 'Rivulets of Wine' (Aitken '99)

Bottom Photo: 'Ruffled Dimity' (L.Reid '85)

Do vein patterns contribute or detract from these flowers?



Or Not!

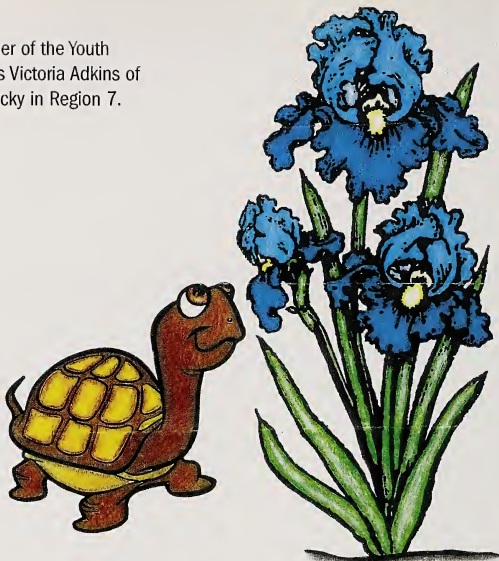
Top Photo: 'Sing The Blues' (L. Reid '97)

Bottom Photo: 'Lion King' (Bauer/Coble '96)

Would vein patterns contribute or detract from these flowers?



Youth Overall winner of the Youth
Coloring Contest is Victoria Adkins of
Frenchburg, Kentucky in Region 7.



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spotlight On the Median Iris Society

By Rita Gormley, Iowa & Jim Morris, Missouri

Our gardening friends often say to us, "If only irises had a longer bloom time! They are gone much too soon." Our answer to them is, "Plant median irises!" The median bearded irises, a diverse group, comprise all the bearded irises that are, or have been considered to be intermediate in any sense between the dwarf and the tall bearded irises. The present classification of the American Iris Society, which is the international registry for all irises except the bulbous, divides them into four horticultural types, Standard Dwarf, Intermediate, Miniature Tall and Border Irises.

The first of these, the Standard Dwarf Bearded irises (SDBs), start blooming with the daffodils in the spring, and some are a full six weeks earlier than the tall bearded irises. Growing 8-16 inches tall, they are a welcome sight after a long dreary winter. These little guys quickly make large clumps with a mass of bloom and come in the full range of colors known to irises. They are sturdy fellows usually not fazed by late freezes (except for the unrelenting April 2007 freeze) and many cultivars are now dependable rebloomers. A few are even everbloomers that keep throwing new stalks throughout the summer and fall. The original SDBs from the 1950s were crosses of *I. pumila* and tall bearded irises and still carry high genetic tendencies



'Eleanor Roosevelt' (H.P. Sass/McDade '33)

to show the pronounced “pumila spot” in their patterns. The early “type” for SDBs was ‘Green Spot’ (Cook 59) which was the first winner of the Cook-Douglas Award in 1959. An Award of Merit equivalent, the award was upgraded to Medal status in 1966 and ‘Green Spot’ won the medal in 1968. The bicolor-*plicata* ‘Music’ (Keppel 99) is the 2007 CDM winner.

Following along behind the SDBs, and in some cases overlapping their bloom times, come the Intermediate Bearded irises (IBs) and at 16 to 27.5 inches are very hardy and have more branches and buds than their smaller cousins. They have been around for centuries with *I. germanica* at two feet high classed as an intermediate bearded iris. This was proven by the French scientist Marc Simonet, in 1932 in his doctoral thesis, when he counted its chromosomes as $2n=44$. Thus it is a natural hybrid with two sets of chromosomes from two different iris species.

Intermediates gained their first worldwide popularity in the early 1900s with introductions by the Englishman W. J. Caparne (1902), and the German firm of Goos & Koenemann (1908). The American Sass brothers, Hans and Jacob, obtained stock from both including unidentified dwarf species from southern France and northern Italy. They crossed these in the 1920s and 1930s with TBs and developed many IBs in new colors and forms, including rebloomers. The popular ‘Eleanor Roosevelt’ (H.P. Sass/McDade 1933) was one of these IBs, most likely out of *I. chamaeiris* (it was incorrectly listed as ‘Amas’ X *I. pumila*).

The modern IBs didn’t come along until after the “invention” of the SDBs by Paul Cook and Geddes Douglas, and the subsequent crossing of SDBs and TBs. Wilma Greenlee of Chrisman, IL was a pioneer in the new form of intermediates bred by crossing the tall



‘Blue Asterisk’ (Greenlee ‘55)

bearded irises with the many new colors of *I. pumila* made available to her by Paul Cook just before the 1950s. She quickly started breeding the pumila-talls back to tall irises with excellent results. Her 'Blue Asterisk' (Greenlee 55) was selected as the new "type" for intermediate irises. It won the Sass Award (established in 1960) in 1962. The award was upgraded to medal status in 1966 with 'Kiss Me Kate' (Cook 58) the first winner. 'Delirium' (M. Smith 01) won the Hans and Jacob Sass Medal in 2007. Originally IBs were thought to be sterile, but our current hybridizers are making substantial progress proving IBs to be fertile, and bringing more color, patterns, hardiness and rebloom tendencies into the class.

Miniature Tall Bearded irises (MTBs) were originally selected in the 1930s from the tall bearded fields of E.B. Williamson's Longfield Iris Farm by Thura Hires, Ethel Peckham and Mary Williamson. They were first called "table irises" as their dainty branched form at 16 to 27.5 inches with small flowers was thought perfect for flower arrangements. Paul Cook, former business partner with Bruce Williamson from 1920-28, said about the MTBs, "I am sure the table irises have all come about as segregation of small size genes out of diploids containing variegata." Their thin, flexuous stalks and high bud count make long lasting clumps that often begin blooming before the TBs and last the whole season.

Iris enthusiast Mary White of Hemet, CA was the main publicist for MTBs in the 1950s and several MTB hybridizers were brought together in her AIS Robins. People such as Jean Witt, Ben Hager, Dorothy Guild and Mary Louise Dunderman exchanged ideas and pollen. Hager decided in 1956 to use the tetraploid *I. aphylla* to see if it would be a minimizer with TBs to produce tetraploid MTBs.



'Pewee' (B. Williamson '34)

It took awhile but by 1980 he had produced a tetraploid tangerine pink MTB 'Puppy Love' and 'Abridged Version' (83) was soon to follow. For gardeners with a limited amount of garden room, MTBs are the perfect solution to more irises in less space! The original "type" for MTBs was selected by MIS as 'Pewee' (B. Williamson 34) and was the first Williamson-White Award winner in 1968. The award was belatedly upgraded to medal status in 1993 and was won by 'Bumblebee Deelite' (Norrick 86). The 2007 Williamson-White Medal was won by the late Hugh Thurman's 'Madam President' (01). One other interesting MTB note is that 'Bangles' (L. Miller 95), WWM winner in 2001, is the only iris – ever – to win both the President's Cup (1997 Detroit, MI) and the Franklin Cook Cup (1995 York, PA).

Blooming along with their Tall Bearded cousins, the Border Bearded irises (BBs) present a more compact height of 16 to 27.5 inches while maintaining the proportion that pleases the iris lover. The Border Bearded irises fit well in small yards as well as being companions to other perennials in the border of any garden. Harold Knowlton of Auburndale, MA was a major promoter of BBs, and according to Bennett Jones in *The World of Irises*, "Harold Knowlton was among the first to make deliberate selections of smaller plants. Two of his 1950 BB introductions, 'Pearl Cup' ... and 'Cricket' ... display the desirable features we still seek in modern border irises."

Lynn Markham of Lunenburg, MA wrote the current version of the BB standards in the AIS Judges' Handbook. She received suggestions from twenty-five national hybridizers and included much of their thoughts in the final copy. Balance and proportion are most important with the standard stating, "A pronounced lack of overall proportion



'Brown Lasso' (Buckles/Niswonger '75)

disqualifies the plant from consideration for any award.” The current “type” for the class is ‘Brown Lasso’ (Buckles/Niswonger 75) which won the Knowlton Medal in 1980 and became the only median to win the U.S. Dykes Medal in 1981. The 2007 Knowlton Medal was won by ‘Go For Bold’ (Black 01).

With the sanction of the AIS Board of Directors, the Median Iris Society was first affiliated in April 1957 and then became the *first* official Section of AIS in May 1960. To this day Sections are listed on page one of the AIS *Bulletin* in the order in which they were chartered! The parent organization of AIS, acting on the advice of Dr. L. F. Randolph of Cornell University and Dr. G. M. H. Lawrence of the Bailey Hortorium (Cornell), made two important changes in January 1958. First was the adoption of a Horticultural Classification recognizing four basic types of median irises; second, the establishment of a series of awards for these four classes, giving to each a place of comparable importance with other recognized types of irises.

The Median Iris Society provides special medals to the AIS for awards in each median classification. Winners of the AIS Award of Merit are eligible for the special medals voted by the judges of AIS. The Cook-Douglas Medal honors Paul Cook and Geddes Douglas, two of the Society’s most renowned hybridizers of SDBs. The Hans and Jacob Sass Medal is awarded annually to an intermediate bearded iris and honors these two Nebraska breeders of IBs. The Knowlton Medal for border bearded irises honors Harold Knowlton, former AIS President, who demonstrated vision in this BB class. The Williamson-White Medal for miniature tall bearded irises honors E. B. Williamson (*and* his daughter Mary) as well as Alice White.

The Median Iris Society is devoted to promoting interest in and development of median irises. Its publication, *The Medianite*, has long set a standard of Section news, chronicling the progression of medians and their hybridizers. To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of MIS, a special History Edition was released in the Spring of 2007. It is chock full of articles and pictures of classic and ground-breaking irises and hybridizers as well as those people instrumental in furthering the advancement of median irises for the garden. This publication will be of interest to all lovers of irises as well as history buffs. Copies are available for \$23.00 (\$27.00 overseas) from the Median Iris Society, Rita Gormley, Editor, 10606 Timber Ridge, Dubuque, IA 52001. 

Fragrance In Irises?

By Terry Aitken, Washington

Several years ago, Roger Duncan asked the question "Where does fragrance come from?" Recently, some young hybridizers in Missouri have expressed a strong interest in breeding for fragrance. A major part of the International Competition in Florence,

Photo: Aitken



'Again And Again' (Innerst '99) TB, RE. In addition to being one of the earliest (July through November) and most persistent rebloomers, we discovered that it is exceptionally fragrant. Pollen fertile.

Italy is to point score guest plants. It came as a shock to me to realize that the point spread between the number one and number ten winners was only 3.5%. Fragrance was valued at 4%. Therefore, a plant without fragrance had no chance of being a winner in that competition.

Quality of fragrance is another issue. Certainly, the sweet grape fragrance of the variegated irises *I. pallida* 'Argentia' and 'Zebra' are noteworthy. Some other irises are downright pungent. As a casually observed opinion only, the purple TB's seem to carry a pronounced sweet fragrance whereas the newer (30 years?) hybrids in the pink and orange color range seem to carry a much less desirable fragrance. It may be that listing of fragrances as none; slight, average or strong might be useful. That still leaves "quality" to ponder. There may be a system of classifying fragrances. I have a number of orchids that can be associated with other products. One has the fragrance of chocolate, another like coconut, another like bubblegum and yet another smells like linseed oil. I'm not sure we gained anything with that last one!

Fragrance actually raises many questions. How come bearded irises are generally fragrant while beardless are not? (Occasionally, there are reports of fragrance among beardless but I have not yet been able to confirm it.) Is fragrance associated with specific colors? If the color is recessive, can fragrance still be expressed? Can fragrance be enhanced through breeding? Is fragrance temperature sensitive? Does soil acidity or alkalinity factor in? Do we need a scientific study to identify or isolate "fragrance" or "fragrances"? 

Irene Nelson?

By Terry Aitken, Washington

Somewhere down the line, I would like to do an article on "THE DARKTOPS, ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION". To do this, I would like to get a good digital picture of 'Irene Nelson' (B. Jones '76). I would be happy to negotiate a trade for a bloom size rhizome of 'Irene Nelson' for something of mine. The article would mainly feature plants by Keith Keppel and Rick Ernst, but I would be happy to hear from others who are working this pattern. This should be an inclusive article. 

"Glitter", A Future Hybridizing Direction?

By Terry Aitken, Washington

Over the past few years, I have become aware of an interesting detail on some iris blossoms. If you look at the edge of the standards on white or blue irises, sometimes you will find a narrow band that looks like shining silver glitter. If you go to some orange or yellow irises, you may find an edge of shiny glittering gold. Several hybridizers have



Photo: Aitken

observed this. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could somehow enhance this characteristic? It may not happen in my lifetime but some of you younger folks may come up with something really spectacular.

The accompanying seedling photo, Aitken #00T95 'glitr' (World premier x (Excellency x Romantic Evening)), shows a narrow edge which may look grey in this picture. Close up, it is silver glitter. Unfortunately, this plant found its way to the compost pile before I realized why we had kept it.

It would be nice to make up a "glitter list" of existing varieties as a start. 

Designing a Plant

The Lily-Gilding Game

by Lynn Markham, Massachusetts

*From IRID-ISM, the newsletter of the Iris Society of Massachusetts,
Volume 12, Number 1, Spring, 1992*

You grow irises. You derive great pleasure from the vast array of shapes and colors that decorate your garden every spring. Is that enough for you? Or do you, even occasionally, find yourself thinking that this one would look even better in that one's color; or that you wish that one were just a bit taller and had an additional branch; or that another one would be just smashing if it formed a tighter, more attractive clump and produced more stalks? If you think that way, you are exhibiting the early symptoms of what Bee Warburton and I used to refer to as "Lily-gilder Syndrome", a non-lethal and in fact rather pleasant affliction that produces in its victims both the desire to improve upon what is already incredibly beautiful and the temerity to try it. If you are a closet lily-gilder I predict that, try as you may to resist, you will ultimately buy a pair of tweezers and start daubing pollen around, so you may as well face it sooner than later and start now.

I have entitled this article "Designing a Plant" because that's how I think of hybridizing. In some ways plant design is no different from any other visual art form. The artist sees, in his mind's eye, what he wants to express on canvas or in wood or clay or marble or metal or textiles, and he uses certain tools to manipulate his materials to that end. The hybridizer really has the same sort of artistic vision and similar goals. The biggest difference is that he has far less control of his materials, which consist not of relatively quiescent substances like paint and clay, but of the complex genetic maps that dictate each and every physical attribute of the iris plant. These are what we must try to manipulate in order to "gild the lily."

The truth is, we know only a tiny fraction of what we need to know in order to make deliberate, beneficial changes in our plant material, most of which is tetraploid (four sets of chromosomes), with hundreds of individual genes at work, interacting in myriad ways. If you already understand what went on with Gregor Mendel's peas the information will be useful, but Mendel's peas were diploids (only

two sets of chromosomes) and gave far less mind-boggling results in breeding. Whether Mendel's work is familiar to you or not, you can go to *The World of Irises* for a crash course in both diploid and tetraploid inheritance and some (but by no means all) of the facts of iris color genetics. Beyond that, you'll be running on instinct and your own ability to analyze your results. I hope you enjoy a challenge!

The above is not intended to discourage you at the outset. In fact, it's to let you know that the most experienced and successful hybridizers don't know it all either and never will, and that you have as good a chance as the next guy to produce something wonderful. You're fooling with Mother Nature here, and you'll find she's as apt to do you a favor as to rain on your parade.

Mother Nature notwithstanding, you can stack the deck in your own favor. If I had to give a beginning hybridizer one single piece of advice, it would be this: Learn to observe in minute detail. You've been looking at each iris as a total picture – that's the "audience" view. It's what we do when we visit an art gallery or a museum. We stand there and gaze at a canvas or a sculpture or a piece of antique furniture and we react emotionally: "This is pleasing." "This is disturbing." "This is outright ugly!" That's judging by impact and it's what the artist intended his audience to do. If you have the reaction he was trying to elicit, he has succeeded; but only he knows what he did to affect you in that way.

But now you are the artist. You are studying a plant that is a prospective parent for a new generation. It pleases you in some way or you would not be considering using it but you, having decided to be a hybridizer, no longer have the luxury of letting it go at that. Rather, you must start really looking at it. Why do you like it? In what respects should it be altered? What other plant in the garden has the attributes you would like to add to this one? Do the two plants share any faults that would be a real problem if they were intensified; or conversely, do they share any virtues which, intensified, would result in a tremendous improvement? As you make these observations, you should be seeing in your mind's eye the total picture of a plant altered in the ways you are considering. In mentally dissecting the details you are not overlooking the whole; you are simply looking at it from a different point of view. You are no longer just the audience; you are designing something for the audience.

Taking your observations a step further, try to detect "tendencies" in your prospective parents. Suppose both of the tentatively selected parents have quite pretty falls, but in both cases the shape of the falls is a bit longer than it is wide. That can be interpreted as "a tendency to elongated falls" and the combination of these two parents may result in some seedlings with outright tongues! Or suppose you notice that

each of the plants has a barely detectable purple stain at the leaf bases. Combining these plants may accentuate that feature, so if you happen to like purple leaf bases, the fact that this "tendency" appears in both parents can be taken as a plus. You get the idea and I won't belabor the point, but as you continue with your hybridizing you will come to understand its significance.

Regardless of what I've just said, don't agonize so much over this first cross that you never do it at all. You have to start somewhere. So once

you've satisfied yourself that you've chosen a good match, i.e., two parents that seem to complement each other in that they share no grievous fault, do share some important virtues, and each has good qualities which, if added to the other, would (in your mind's eye) result in a significant improvement, go get your tweezers and take the plunge!

When your seedling crop blooms, you will find yourself anticipating the opening of each never-before-seen flower the way a child anticipates



Photo: Stephanie Markham

L. Markham 02-12A2, BB

opening packages on Christmas morning, and if you weren't already hooked on this plant design business, you will be. Perhaps among these seedlings you will see something that will really delight you. Perhaps not. One way or the other they will give you important information, so good, bad or indifferent, look at all of them in detail. Try to figure out, based on your knowledge of their parents (and their parents, grandparents, etc. if you're familiar with them), how they got that way. Try to understand why they are, or are not, what you had in mind when you made the cross. The answers to these questions will help you to use them for further improvement or, if they are really a disaster, to make other initial crosses that will work better.

Over time, I guarantee that you will learn to observe your breeding stock and seedlings in even greater detail. You will find that what you once thought was one characteristic – “good” standards for instance – is really a dozen or so of them, such as length, width, general outline, texture, degree of curvature of midrib, position of attachment, thickness of petal, degree of ruffling or lace, and on and on, and that what is being recombined in your seedlings is not standard type as a whole but small structural details individually. When you begin to appreciate this concept, you will find yourself looking even more closely at “tendencies,” both to eliminate the features you dislike and to capitalize upon new virtues that may show up unexpectedly in your seedlings. A couple of years ago, a small



L. Markham 98-2C3, TB

pink appeared among my BB seedlings. Not a great flower but I noticed that although it was not laced or even particularly ruffled, its petal edges were ever so slightly serrated. An interesting “tendency.” I don't yet know whether this feature is incipient lace

or something entirely different, but I hope the latter and plan to find out. It may be something that can be capitalized upon or it may not, but the fact that it was noticed means that the possibilities will be deliberately explored. Had I failed to see this little quirk, the seedling might have been composted because of its several deficiencies and, just possibly, one of those “favors” from Mother Nature would have gone to waste. The point is that the more closely you scrutinize your plants, and the better you understand the results of your breeding, the better equipped you will be to choose parents for future generations – and the improvement in your choices of parents will have a very positive effect on your won/lost record in the lily-gilding game.

One thing that will never happen, however, is that you win every round. You are still fooling around with Mother Nature, and she will still do you a favor or rain on your parade at her pleasure. This will keep you humble and that’s as it should be. I find that after thirty-odd years of hybridizing, the minute, detailed scrutiny of thousands of irises, and the production of a fair number of garden-worthy or even introduction-worthy plants, I am less and less smug about my own abilities as a plant designer and more and more in awe of the intelligence, whatever you choose to call it, that designed this wonderful plant material in the first place! And so, because I still cannot predict with absolute certainty what will come of the work I am doing, or when and how the “real” designer will opt to help me out or play havoc with my plans, the fascination continues – it is still Christmas morning for me every single day of the bloom season. 

Postscript 2007: Another fifteen years have passed since I wrote this article for IRID-ISM. Since then there have been a few thousand more seedlings to delight (or annoy) me, and lots more “tendencies” have surfaced, upon which to build (or not) something worthwhile. That little serrated pink led nowhere, but down the road a bit came a fascinating “minimalist plicata” pattern that has taken my breeding in a whole new direction. There are also some intriguing shades of blue that I hope reflect an anthocyanin pigment other than the typical delphinidin – but whether or not they do, they’re giving me some very different blends. So I wouldn’t change a word of the above – the lily-gilding game is still the best game in town, and Christmas for me still comes, not in December, but in springtime when the seedlings bloom.

–Lynn Markham

News from the Middle-European Iris Society (MEIS) – Convention in Poland

From Anna Cadd

The irisians from 3 countries: Poland, Slovakia and Czech Republic belong to MEIS. The Conventions are organized every 3 years in one of these countries. In 2007 it was in Poland, with the cooperation of one of the oldest Botanical Gardens in Europe, The Wroclaw University Botanical Garden, The Arboretum in Wojslawice and Master Planting in Ratowice. Unfortunately, the heat wave in early spring in Europe caused the irises to bloom three weeks earlier than normal. The Convention Guests saw only the last blooms on the clumps. Thankfully, the panel of judges got together two weeks prior and judged the guest irises, so the Trophies were awarded. Botanical Garden in Wroclaw, surrounded by several 12 Century Cathedrals and Churches was beautiful with huge collection of iris species and Arboretum in Wojslawice was bursting with azalea flowers and *Iris pseudacorus*. And the famous polish old fashion hospitality was almost overwhelming. The Convention guests were spoiled by excellent food, friendly atmosphere and long into the nights sessions, talking about the irises, lilies and sharing the jokes and old and new founded friendships.

Thank you for the hospitality!

News from the New Zealand Iris Society

From Gwenda and Brian Harris

The 2007 New Zealand Iris Society Convention was held in Dunedin on November 16-20, 2007. There were 70 attendees. Peter Chin, the Mayor of Dunedin, opened the Convention and Robyn Rohrlach from Victoria, Australia, spoke on growing iris in recent draught conditions. There were only four international visitors, Heather and Bernard Pryor and Robyn Rolach and also Virginia Keyser from USA, who attended so many of New Zealand Conventions and is always welcome there.

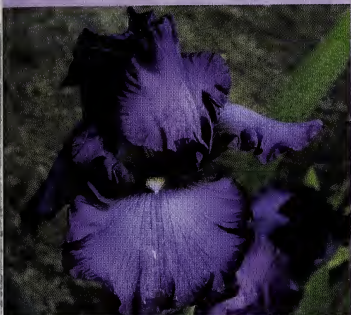
On the Saturday the party traveled to Waikouaiti, north of Dunedin, for garden visits. The traditional fundraising auction followed dinner and a record of NZ \$3450.00 was collected. Also was noted that membership is on the rise. A seed sale of imported seed raised \$635.00. The seeds donation from the States was very much appreciated and many went home with the packets of seeds.

On Sunday there were Judging Workshops, followed by various other sessions. One of them was Tissue Culture and Genetic Engineering, important techniques now, that New Zealand has such difficulty in importing plants in the usual way.

The Annual General Meeting was followed by an entertaining talk by DaVella Gore "Building my Garden of Eden", and a visit to the South African Collection in the Dunedin Botanic Garden. Stephanie Boot spoke on 'Franciris' after dinner. There was a good company to meet and some great irises to see. 

(more international news on page 78)

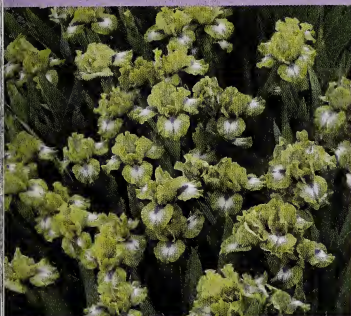
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You can also search on partial names so you can get results for alternative spellings.

If you have problems email John Jones at jjones@usjoneses.com

The 2007 Nominating Committee is seeking your recommendation of individuals you believe should be considered in the selection of nominees for the AIS Board of Directors.

The recommended nominee must be an AIS member in good standing. A recommendation of a nominee should include some qualification comments. We strongly recommend that the individuals being proposed NOT be contacted in advance. The Nominating Committee will consider all candidates and will then contact the individuals selected by the committee.

Nominating Committee contacts are:

Barbara Aitken aitken@flowerfantasy.net, Louise Carson nloucar@earthlink.net, John Ludi kludi@juno.com, Jody Nolin jody.nolin@gmail.com, Nancy Pocklington irlady@royell.org

AIS 2007 Exhibition Report

DATE	PLACE	TYPE	BEST SPECIMEN	EXHIBITOR MEDAL	SILVER MEDAL	BRONZE MEDAL	NUMBER
Region 1							
5/20	North Chelmsford	Spec	I. sintensii - brandzae	J Sacks & Schafer	J Sacks & Schafer	S Smith	07-097
7/8	Shelburne Falls MA	Jl	Heavenly Reflexion	Deborah Wheeler	Deborah Wheeler	S Whitney	07-170
Region 2							
5/26	Colonie NY	IB	Lemon Pop	R Keup	R Keup	E Matsoukas	07-133
6/9	Hamburg NY	TB	Lady Of Leoness	D Baehre	D Baehre	F Reitzel	07-151
6/3	Ithaca NY	TB	Vanity	D Stiefel	D Stiefel	V Sayles	07-154
6/30	Sandy Creek NY	Jl	Magic Enchantment	R James	J Smith	C Crandall	07-164
Region 3							
5/26	Media PA	TB	Noble Stature	G Slagle	G Slagle	V Lewonski	07-109
5/13	Wilmington DE	MTB	Dancing Lilacs	G Slagle	R. D. Hager	G Slagle	07-127
5/19	Pittsburgh PA	MTB	Carolyn Rose	L Herhold	M Corle	L Herhold	07-131
5/26	York PA	SIB	Laughing Allegra	H Griffie	H Griffie	P & J Leader	07-165
Region 4							
5/5	Charlotte NC	LA	Prix D'Elegance	R Holbrook	R Holbrook	K Steele	07-059
5/25	Hunt Valley MD	TB	Little John	S Galloway	C Warner	A Moran	07-085
6/6	Towson MD	Jl	Altay	V Lewonski	C Warner	B Hornstein	07-086
5/6	Norfolk VA	TB	Thornbird	J Bryant	M Rogers	M Hamm	07-087
5/19	Vienna VA	SIB	Demure Illini	V Walczak	V Walczak	M Thomas & E Willis	07-088
5/12	Salisbury MD	TB	Queen Anne's Lace	D Hunter	J Wood	S Warner	07-146
Region 5							
4/21	Columbia SC	TB	Blue Jay Way	W Smith, JR	S Paquet	W Smith, Jr	07-001
4/18	Moncks Comer SC	LA	Charlene Strawn	P Brooks	P Brooks	C Coker	07-023
4/14	MacClenny FL	LA	Overnight Success	S Seabrook	S Seabrook	W Rowe	07-026
4/30	Griffin GA	TB	Excellency	M Enquist	M Enquist	S Kilgore	07-031
4/28	Spartanburg SC	TB	Nicer Than Nice	M Goforth	R & P Bowen	M Goforth	07-047
4/14	Milledgeville GA	TB	Innocent Star (Youth Entry)	B White	J & J Watson	J White	07-092
5/19	Columbus OH	TB	Dusky Challenger	A Chaffin	A & D Willott		07-029
Region 6							
5/26	Grand Rapids MI	TB	Song Of Norway	D Sorenson	D Sorenson	K Diedrich	07-051
6/2	Mansfield OH	TB	Cerf-Volant	M Jo Shrimplin	R Tanner	M Jo Shrimplin	07-090
5/19	Indianapolis IN	MTB	Desert Shield	C Bunnell	C Bunnell	M Swann-Young	07-105
5/20	Muncie IN	TB	Honky Tonk Blues	M Rogers	W & N Garner	M Rogers	07-110
6/2	Wyoming MI	TB	Champagne Waltz	M Moorman	M Moorman	M Chesebro	07-112
5/27	Ft. Wayne IN	TB	In Your Dreams	R Winebrenner	D Poling	B Wendal	07-123
6/2	Portage MI	LA	Abbyville Red	M Holder	Ensata Gardens	M Holderq	07-145
5/12	Akron OH	SDB	Frilly Valentine	A Willott	A Willott	R & N Whisler	07-155
5/26	Strongsville OH	TB	Arms Wide Open	D & J Ruhmeyer	A Willott	D & J Ruhmeyer	07-156
6/10	Hale MI	SPEC	Pseudacorus	D Gifford	T Leach	M McDonald	07-160
6/2	Troy MI	TB	Westland Rose	M Madeleine	B Heilman	E deVillers	07-167
6/2	Lansing MI	SIB	Emily Anne	J Hollingworth	J Kaufmann	J Sharpe	07-168

DATE	PLACE	TYPE	BEST SPECIMEN	EXHIBITOR MEDAL	SILVER MEDAL	BRONZE MEDAL	NUMBER
Region 7							
4/28	Nashville TN	TB	Hello Darkness	S & L Gossage	S & L Gossage	B Russel	07-008
5/6	Murfreesboro TN	TB	Light Shine	S & L Gossage	S & L Gossage	D & M Scott	07-043
4/28	Louisville KY	TB	Aztec Affluence	D Scott	S Gardner	J & J Wilson	07-049
5/19	Lexington KY	TB	Queen Of Angels	VanHook Family	VanHook Family	R Adkins	07-050
5/5	Lebanon TN	TB	Winter Fest	B Wilkins	B Wilkins	R Craft	07-091
5/4	Dresden TN	TB	Bridal Icing	B & CA Carney	B & CA Carney	E & D Royal	07-098
4/28	Jackson TN	TB	Fountain Of Youth	M Vernon	M Vernon	B Corroll	07-107
4/29	Memphis TN	TB	Wild Irish Rose	M Sandvig	C Winters	E Longworth	07-129
5/12	Bowling Green TN	TB	Stairway To Heaven	I Turns	I Hughes	I Turns	07-134
Region 8							
6/2	Madison WI	TB	Smiling Faces	L Ravet	L Mohrmann	E McLeester	07-004
5/19	Hales Corners WI	SDB	Bluebeards Ghost	K Johnson	D Vande	R Keller	07-055
6/2	Hales Corners WI	SIB	Somebody Loves Me	R Keller	R Keller	L Doffeck	07-056
6/3	Minneapolis MN	TB	Crimson Tiger	J Cooper	T Moore	R Reed	07-157
Region 9							
5/19	Urbana IL	Spec X	Limbo	J & M Wilhoit	J & M Wilhoit	M Kelly	07-073
5/12	Alton IL	TB	English Style	P Hayden	A & E Henson	O & L Dickhaut	07-122
5/12	Lisle IL	IB	Starwoman	B Reider	C Simon	B Reider	07-125
5/26	Lisle IL	TB	Eagle Control	C Simon	C Simon	N & M Timko	07-126
Region 10							
4/14	Lafayette LA	LA	Early On	P O'Connor	J Weeks	S Killingsworth	07-034
Region 11							
6/9	Missoula MT	TB	Vanity	D Durnford	G Clark	E Friesz	07-040
5/19	Missoula MT	MTB	Bangles	S Gustafson	R Muir	G Clark	07-080
4/28	Boise ID	IB	Star Woman	J Shaber	C Coleman	J Shaber	07-121
6/3	Twin Falls ID	TB	Mallow Dramatic	P Hurly	J Graham	P Hurley	07-163
5/19	Boise ID	IB	Bottled Sunshine	J Shaber	S Touchstone	W Amdt/E Allison	07-166
Region 12							
5/5	Salt Lake City UT	TB	Thornbird	L Robertson	C Hagan Reed	T & L Miller	07-030
6/1	Logan UT	TB	Tokatee Falls	L Urness	Snow Horse Iris Gardens	L Urness	07-103
5/19	Salt Lake City UT	TB	That's All Folks	L & M Krantz	T & L Miller	L & M Krantz	07-144
Region 13							
4/21	Portland OR	Spec	I. Japonica	C Harris	W Plotner	J Ludi	07-014
5/26	Portland OR	CA	Pacific Rim	C Harris	C Harris	W Plotner	07-015
6/16	Portland OR	SPU	April's Birthday	J Ludi	J Ludi	C Harris	07-016
5/28	Tacoma WA	TB	Pacific Mist	I Martin	M Kilborn	A Brooks	07-058
5/26	Bellevue WA	TB	Slovak Prince	B Williamson	B Williamson	F Hawk	07-108
6/2	Spokane Valley WA	TB	About Town	B Midkiff	R Karr	N Lunden	07-135
Region 14							
4/14	Henderson NV	TB	Play To Win	L Pires	H Rusk	L Pires	07-005
4/28	Santa Rosa CA	TB	Drama Queen	R Bevier	A & D Cadd	M Horn	07-006
4/21	Visalia CA	TB	Wine Time	R Franklin	G Sutton	B Rybnikar	07-011
4/21	Las Vegas NV	SPU	My Gold	L Ray	P Fortner	L Ray	07-021
4/28	Auburn CA	CA	Stroke Of Midnight	K Braaten	Y Meador	K Braaten	07-024
4/7	Walnut Creek CA	BB	Waiting For October	B & J Canning	R Grisso	B & J Canning	07-033

DATE	PLACE	TYPE	BEST SPECIMEN	EXHIBITOR MEDAL	SILVER MEDAL	BRONZE MEDAL	NUMBER
5/12	Ukiah CA	TB	Bugles & Horns	K Loberg	J McGrew	K Loberg	07-035
4/14	Clovis CA	LA	Betty Tucker	B Rybnikar	B Tyson	G Sutton	07-037
4/29	Redding CA	TB	Bye Bye Blues	S Olsen	S Olsen	C Curry	07-053
4/28	San Jose CA	TB	Japanesque	L Ayala	L Ayala	E & J Laflin	07-077
4/28	Chico CA	TB	Hollywood Nights	K Barnes	D Bates	T Peruzzi	07-099
4/28	Capitola CA	CA	Close Eye	E Laborde	E Laborde	J Ghio	07-111
4/14	Oakland CA	IB	Vintage Press	B & J Canning	R Grisso	A Robbins	07-117
4/28	Walnut Creek CA	TB	River Pearl	J & J Balch	R Grisso	D & N Vigus	07-132

Region 15

4/14	Woodland Hills CA	TB	Snowbrook	K Ung	M A Abrahms	L Nicolai-Moon	07-027
4/14	Phoenix AZ	TB	Coral Pincushion	J Weber	J Weber	F Edwards	07-041
5/5	Palmdale CA	TB	Pink Swan	K Ung	L Nicolai-Moon	K Ung	07-048
5/5	San Diego CA	SPEC	Roy Davidson	S Ginsberg	T Howse	L Vogel	07-113
4/28	Costa Mesa CA	TB	Mesmerizer	K Ung	K Ung	L Nicolai-Moon	07-114

Region 16

6/3	Toronto ON	TB	My Way	K Brewitt	T Laurin	K Brewitt	07-106
6/10	Brantford ON	TB	Conjuration	A Granatier	V Saari	C Chapman	07-142

Region 17

4/14	Cleburne TX	TBG	San Francisco	M Hodges	G & G Huddleston	H Haik	07-002
4/7	Austin TX	TB	Cordoba	C Gifford	G Huddleston	C & S Hensley	07-007
4/14	Ft. Worth TX	TB	Point Made	J & D Spears	J & D Spears	D Perry	07-013
4/13	Belton TX	LA	Jeri	C Gifford	C Gifford	J Landers	07-022
4/21	Waco TX	LA	Ellene Rockwell	J Landers	G Huddleston	C Gifford	07-032
4/15	Richardson TX	TB	High Master	D Perry	B & H Nichols	D Perry	07-039
4/28	Sherman TX	LA	Henry Rowlan	A Brown	A Brown	J Thompson	07-079
4/14	Midland TX	TB	Kentucky Derby	O Ogle	O Ogle	C Ford	07-115
4/21	Odessa TX	TB	Poet	A Lange	O Ogle	A Lange	07-116
5/13	Amarillo TX	TB	Gypsy Romance	D Boyer	L Litsch	K Mazurek	07-139
4/21	Mt. Pleasant TX	TB	Coffee Whispers	J Ellikot	J Ferrell	P Johnston	07-149

Region 18

4/21	St Louis MO	IB	Goddess Of Blue	R Hill	J Morris	N Hughes	07-038
4/28	Highridge MO	TB	Halo In Peach	K Devous	R Hill	R Probst/S Trio	07-042
4/29	Wichita KS	IB	Frosty Elegance	K Rohr	P Ardisonne	J Baumfalk	07-044
5/13	Wichita KS	TB	Silverado	J Richardson	K Rohr	P Ardisonne	07-045
5/27	Wichita KS	SPU	Picacho Peak	S Fitzpatrick	H Reynolds	S Fitzpatrick	07-046
5/12	Cape Girardeau MO	TB	Tiger Honey	D & N Elliot	D & N Elliot	C Pickett	07-074
4/28	Union MO	TB	Circus Dancer	J Morris	J Morris	S Rust	07-076
5/19	Dodge City KS	TB	Chuckwagon	J C Sinclair	J Shelly	F Barns	07-138
5/19	Overland Park KS	SPEC	Sea Krill	C Ash	C Ash	J Murrain	07-148
4/24	Chesterfield MO	IB	Oblivion	J Morris	J Morris	An Ho	07-153
6/10	Wentzville MO	JL	Belgium Dancer	D Delmez	D Delmez	N Hughes	07-162

Region 19

5/27	Burlington NJ	TB	Aardvark Lark	B Butler	B Butler	N Chambellan	07-128
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Region 20

5/20	Rocky Ford CO	TB	Devonshire Cream	L Tomky	K Tomky	L Tomky	07-130
5/26	Denver CO	TB	Belle Of Provence	L Baumunk	L Love	A Goodwin	07-141
6/9	Colorado Springs CO	TB	Phantom Ship	L Baumunk	L Baumunk	W Hulka	07-159

DATE	PLACE	TYPE	BEST SPECIMEN	EXHIBITOR MEDAL	SILVER MEDAL	BRONZE MEDAL	NUMBER
Region 21							
5/19	Lincoln NE	TB	Long's Peak	G White	G White	L Radner	07-150
5/26	Scottsbluff NE	TB	McKellars Grove	S Haas	F Hara	L Meininger	07-161
Region 22							
4/21	Lawton OK	TB	Celestial Explosion	J Kyle	S Finney	M Bishop	07-003
4/28	Lawton OK	TB	Blueberry Bliss	S Thompson	M Bishop	D Hooker	07-009
4/28	Enid OK	TB	Skating Party	D George	D George	B McVicker	07-010
4/21	Tulsa OK	TB	Anything Goes	T & Ky Lyons	P Gossett	Mr & Mrs Stonecipher	07-174
5/12	Tulsa OK	LA	Henry Rowlan	P Gossett	O & D Hibdon	P Gossett	07-018
4/28	Little Rock AR	TB	Queen's Circle	P Stover	R Treadway	L Bell	07-019
4/28	Hot Springs AR	TB	James Bledsoe	J Bledsoe	Y Becker	K Kostelecky	07-025
4/15	Norman OK	AB	Betty McPherson	L Carson	G & D Cary	L Carson	07-028
4/7	Oklahoma City OK	IB	Black Currant	R Moore	H & J Stout	M Stahl	07-054
4/28	Ponca City OK	BB	Helping Hands	P Gossett	P Gossett	C Goldsberry	07-057
4/29	Lawton OK	TB	Titan's Glory	M E Bishop	M E Bishop	B Reimer	07-082
4/7	Searcy AR	TB	Helen Boehm	M Coker	L Johnson	A Jewell	07-102
Region 23							
5/26	Santa Fe NM	SIB	Coronation Anthem	J Cain	J & R Cain	S Elliott	07-081
4/29	Albuquerque NM	AB	Lights Of Arabia	C Rivera	V White	C Rivera	07-094
4/28	Roswell NM	TB	Man About Town	P Naranjo	P Naranjo	R Hutchings	07-096
4/14	Las Cruces NM	TB	Deja Blue	St Ayres	R Anderson	S Ayres	07-101
5/12	Albuquerque NM	MTB	Baubles & Beads	V White	V White	H Radebaugh	07-104

Exhibition Certificates for 2007

Bolded items indicate Best Seedling of a show

TYPE***	HYBRIDIZER	SHOW LOCATION	DATE
04-9-1	Mildred Koschara	Ithaca NY	3-Jun
512-A	Orville & Lu Dickhaut	Alton IL	12-May

*** Type of iris was not listed on show report.

INTERMEDIATE (IB)	HYBRIDIZER	SHOW LOCATION	DATE
03-6-1	Mildred Koschara	Colonie NY	26-May
W05-90	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	Columbus OH	19-May
W05-77	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	Columbus OH	19-May
W05-104	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	Akron OH	12-May
W05-105	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	Akron OH	12-May
W05-120	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	Columbus OH	19-May

JAPANESE (JI)	HYBRIDIZER	SHOW LOCATION	DATE
MJT-0-0	Andrew Wheeler	Shelburne Falls MA	8-Jul
07-02	Diane Cerone	Shelburne Falls MA	8-Jul
DBWVBST	Don Delmez	Wentzville MO	10-Jun

SDKBVO	Don Delmez	Wentzville MO	10-Jun
JI X21-06	Ron James	Sandy Creek NY	30-Jun

LOUISIANA (LA)	HYBRIDIZER	SHOW LOCATION	DATE
02-121-01	Ron Betzer	Lafayette LA	14-Apr
Edna Claunch	Harry Wolford	Lafayette LA	14-Apr
/52	Sherry Seabrook	MacClenny FL	14-Apr

MINIATURE DWARF BEARDED	HYBRIDIZER	SHOW LOCATION	DATE
97-HLC-1	David & Barbara Schmieder	North Chelmsford MA	20-May
MO-5-1	Jean Morris	St. Louis MO	21-Apr
MO-5-1	Jean Morris	Highridge MO	28-Apr
R516-A	Charles Rumbaugh	Muncie IN	20-May
H23-1	Chuck Bunnell	Indianapolis IN	19-May
275P	Lowell Baumunk	Colorado Springs CO	9-Jun
AHD8P7	Vicki Craig	Portland OR	21-Apr

ARILBRED (AB)	HYBRIDIZER	SHOW LOCATION	DATE
J93-03	Scott Jordan	Albuquerque NM	29-Apr
J4-SA	Scott Jordan	Albuquerque NM	29-Apr

CALIFORNICAE (CA)	HYBRIDIZER	SHOW LOCATION	DATE
2002-20-6	Bob & Janet Canning	Walnut Creek CA	7-Apr
99-PCI-1	Bob Annand	Chico CA	28-Apr
2002-12-2	Bob Canning	Visalia CA	21-Apr
0534-E11	Gary Knipe	Capitola CA	28-Apr
PMM8-3	Gary Knipe	Capitola CA	28-Apr
PI-60	Joe Ghio	Capitola CA	28-Apr
P/24	Lisa Ayala	San Jose CA	28-Apr
6b	Ron Shaw	Toronto ON	3-Jun
27102-13	Ryan Grisso	Oakland CA	14-Apr
2711-02	Ryan Grisso	Oakland CA	14-Apr
2714-10	Ryan Grisso	Walnut Creek CA	28-Apr

SPEC-X (PSEUDATA)	HYBRIDIZER	SHOW LOCATION	DATE
Samou	H. Shimizu (Japan)	Towson MD	6-Jun
Yasha	H. Shimizu (Japan)	Towson MD	6-Jun
Yaru No Akari	H. Shimizu (Japan)	Towson MD	6-Jun
Take No Sato	H. Shimizu (Japan)	Towson MD	6-Jun
Kojo	H. Shimizu (Japan)	Towson MD	6-Jun

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED	HYBRIDIZER	SHOW LOCATION	DATE
W05-57	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	Akron OH	12-May
W2K-50	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	Columbus OH	19-May
W05-59	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	Akron OH	12-May
W03-95	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	Strongsville OH	26-May
W06-4	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	Akron OH	12-May
W06-6	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	Akron OH	12-May
794-3	Bennett Jones	Portland OR	21-Apr
02 SDB 9-9	Carol Coleman	Boise ID	28-Apr

CCXBN-04	Jean Morris	St. Louis MO	21-Apr
R-546-2K0	Kendal Rohr	Wichita KS	29-Apr
00-50-5	Lee Walker	Portland OR	21-Apr
03X05-2-IB	Riley Probst	Highridge MO	28-Apr
W04-3	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	Columbus OH	19-May
W06-8	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	Akron OH	12-May
W01-33	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	Columbus OH	19-May

SIBERIAN (SIB)	HYBRIDIZER	SHOW LOCATION	DATE
03CS-100-A	Carla Lankow	Bellevue WA	26-May
03-465-1	Chuck Chapman	Brantford ONT	10-Jun
98101C	D Steve Varner	Urbana IL	19-May
WR1-3	D Steve Varner	Urbana IL	19-May
2007-3	James Copeland	Portage MI	2-Jun
55304-2	Katharine Steele	Charlotte NC	5-May
3-5	Lloyd Ravet	Madison WI	2-Jun

SPECIES (SPEC)	HYBRIDIZER	SHOW LOCATION	DATE
G-10-7A	Stephanie & Cindy Rust	Union MO	28-Apr
APHYMATH	Stephanie & Cindy Rust	Union MO	28-Apr

SPURIA (SPU)	HYBRIDIZER	SHOW LOCATION	DATE
95-28-11	Lee Walker	Portland OR	16-Jun
93-28-57	Lee Walker	Portland OR	16-Jun

TALL BEARDED (TB)	HYBRIDIZER	SHOW LOCATION	DATE
24-00-2	Anna & David Cadd	Santa Rosa CA	28-Apr
26-001	Anna & David Cadd	Visalia CA	21-Apr
W 04-69	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	Strongsville OH	26-May
W 07-75	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	Strongsville OH	26-May
W 07-74	Anthony & Dorothy Willott	Strongsville OH	26-May
117-20-11-90-2	Anthony Lange	Odessa TX	21-Apr
AM00/0590-4	Anton Mego	Portland OR	26-May
H-92-2	Betty Hartzog	Lawrenceville GA	28-Apr
2-218	Bill McVicker	Enid OK	28-Apr
SMT 03-4-21	Bob Smith	Lincoln NE	19-May
24CT4	Bob Van Lieve	Denver CO	26-May
J-89-1	Chuck Bunnell	Wichita KS	13-May
2001-125A	Don Spoon	Hunt Valley MD	25-May
JF 07-2	Doug & Joy Fuhrmeyer	Strongsville OH	26-May
F-7-21	Elizabeth Friesz	Missoula MT	9-Jun
QHT 140	Everette Lineberger	Spartanburg SC	28-Apr
2115B-32	Francelle Edwards	Phoenix AZ	14-Apr
G-725-FH	Francis Rogers	Hales Corner WI	2-Jun
GDC71-30	Gary Slagle	Burlington NJ	27-May
U-007	George Sutton	Visalia CA	21-Apr
T-373-RE	George Sutton	Clovis CA	14-Apr
06B6	Griff Crump	Vienna VA	19-May
0023	Inez Turns	Bowling Green KY	12-May
DCMV-47-3	Jerry Hoke	Overland Park KS	19-May

03-423	Joan Davis	Ft. Wayne IN	27-May
03-33F	Joe Ghio	Capitola CA	28-Apr
2121G	Lowell Baumunk	Denver CO	26-May
A-01	Marc Loberg	Ukiah CA	12-May
MG00-62-16	Mark Howard Grumbine	Little Rock AR	28-Apr
MC-TA	Mike Chesebro	Grand Rapids MI	26-May
MC-E-3	Mike Chesebro	Wyoming MI	2-Jun
T-713-A	Mike Sutton	Visalia CA	21-Apr
U 1372	Mike Sutton	Visalia CA	21-Apr
CLMB 3-98	Robert Reed	Minneapolis MN	3-Jun
A2002-1	S. Kilgore	Griffin GA	30-Apr
5445-2	Sterling Innerst	York PA	26-May
06-002A	Steven Place	Richardson TX	15-Apr
98-14-8	Susan Boyce	Salt Lake City UT	19-May
TH-0302A	Ted Howse	San Diego CA	5-May
02-61A	Tom Burseen	Ft. Worth Tx	14-Apr
#Pool1	Wayland Rudkin	Auburn CA	28-Apr
5-76-RE	George Sutton	Clovis CA	14-Apr
U-184	Mike Sutton	Visalia CA	21-Apr
2K-74	Randy Squires	Woodland Hills CA	14-Apr

AIS Youth shows for 2007

DATE	LOCATION	BEST SPECIMEN	TYPE	EXHIBITOR	SILVER MEDAL	BRONZE MEDAL
Region 5						
4/28	Spartanburg SC	Ruth Wilder	SPEC	Amber Wray	Megan Wray	Amber Wray
4/14	Milledgeville GA	Innocent Star	TB	Brittany White	Brittany White	Abby Snow
Region 6						
6/2	Portage MI	Conjuration	TB	Cody Copeland	Jessica Holder	Cody Copeland
6/10	Hale MI	Phaeton	TB	Sarah Dreyer	Laura Dreyer	Sara Dreyer
Region 7						
5/4	Dresden TN	Plum Quirky	MTB	Colin Harris	Sarah Hatler	Benjamin Barnett
4/28	Jackson TN	Susquehanna	TB	Peyton Flowers	Peyton Flowers	Kameron Flowers
Region 8						
6/3	Minneapolis MN	Bumble Bee Delight	MTB	Ryan Del Main	Ryan Del Main	None
Region 11						
6/3	Twin Falls ID	Starlight Express	TB	Clint Clifford	None	None
Region 13						
5/26	Portland OR	Off She Goes	SIB	Jordan Stirling	Jordon Stirling	None
Region 14						
4/28	Capitola CA	Lash	CA	Brett McEwan	Brett McEwan	Willy Sampson
Region 17						
4/14	Ft. Worth TX	Love The Sun	TB	Nicholas Helms	Kendall Lisle	Gwendur Meredith
4/21	Odessa TX	Celestial Explosion	TB	Stephanie Strauss	Stephanie Strauss	None

Region 18

4/28	Highridge MO	Border Music	BB	Hannah Hill	Hannah Hill	Heather Hill
4/28	Union MO	Jesse's Song	TB	Allison Grzeskowiak	Sean Pennington	Megan Pennington

Region 22

4/21	Lawton OK	Kansas City Blues	TB	Dylan Kyle	Dylan Kyle	Stuart Miller
4/28	Lawton OK	Spinning Wheel	TB	Dylan Kyle	Dylan Kyle	Eric Miller
4/28	Ponca City OK	Double Dribble	TB	Chris Davidson	Chris Davidson	Laura Davidson

Bronze Medals/Certificates

Awarded for Outstanding Commercial & Education Exhibits

Commercial

DATE	PLACE	EXHIBITOR	REGION
4/28	Spartanburg SC	Everette & Ann Lineberger	5

Educational

DATE	PLACE	EXHIBITOR	REG
5/13	Wilmington DE	Esther Martin	3
4/14	Milledgeville GA	Cindy White	5
4/28	Lawrenceville GA	Gerald Johnson	5
5/27	Ft. Wayne IN	Shirley Lomont	6
4/28	Nashville TN	Jerry & Mary Phillips	7
4/28	Louisville KY	Jim & Janet Wilson	7
6/3	Minneapolis MN	Ryan Del Main	8
4/28	Boise ID	Sharon Touchstone	11
6/3	Twin Falls ID	Judy Erdman	11
5/19	Boise ID	Sharon Touchstone	11
5/26	Bellevue WA	Carla & George Lankow	13
4/28	Chico CA	Caroline Chacon	14
4/14	Phoenix AZ	Amanda Noland	15
4/14	Cleburne TX	Beth Griffith	17
4/7	Austin TX	Carolyn Gifford	17
4/14	Ft. Worth TX	Gordon Carver	17
4/14	Midland TX	Debbie Strauss	17
4/21	Odessa TX	Debbie Strauss	17
4/28	Union MO	Megan Pennington	18
6/9	Colorado Springs CO	Lola Quion	20
5/26	Scottsbluff NE	Russell Saito	21
5/26	Santa Fe NM	Cindy Rivera / Patricia Randall	23

AIS Artistic Shows

Adult and Youth Winners of 2007

Adult Winners of 2007

DATE	LOCATION	BEST DESIGN	ARTISTIC SWEEPSTAKES
Region 1			
5/20	North		
Chelmsford	Sharon Harvie		
7/8	Shelburne Falls MA	Deborah Wheeler	Deborah Wheeler
Region 2			
6/9	Hamburg NY	Judy Tucholski	
6/3	Ithaca NY	Mildred Horak	Mildred Horak
Region 3			
5/26	Media PA	Cynthia La Paro	
5/19	Pittsburgh PA	Judyth Fetzko	
Region 4			
5/5	Charlotte NC	Marie Cruse	Mary Lou Goodman
5/6	Norfolk VA	William Smoot	Sam Halvorsen
Region 5			
4/21	Columbia SC	Annie May Hicks	Annie May Hicks
4/18	Moncks Corner SC	Betty Black	Betty Black
4/14	Milledgeville GA	Joe Watson	Joe Watson
4/28	Lawrenceville GA	Mary Bolton	Ken Duke
Region 6			
5/26	Grand Rapids MI	Don Hoekstra	Virginia Smith
6/2	Mansfield OH	Johanna Bodiford	Johanna Bodiford
5/19	Indianapolis IN	Maggie Peiffer	Maggie Peiffer
5/20	Muncie IN	Betty Thomas Rogers	Betty Thomas Rogers
6/2	Wyoming MI	Ruth Levanduski	Ruth Levanduski
5/12	Akron OH	Dorothy Willott	Dorothy Willott
5/26	Strongsville OH	Joy Fuhrmeyer	Joy Fuhrmeyer
6/10	Hale MI	Bernie McInnes	Bernie McInnes
6/2	Lansing MI	Judy Hollingworth	
Region 7			
5/6	Murfreesboro TN	Susan Fisk	
5/5	Lebanon TN	Mary Anne Gannon	
4/29	Memphis TN	Julia Dow	
5/12	Bowling Green TN	Helen Jean Neuber	Kathy Leath
Region 8			
6/2	Madison WI	Eunice Witt	Evelyn Thompson
6/3	Minneapolis MN		Cindy Soule
Region 9			
5/12	Lisle IL	Anne Zelsko	Barbara Miller
5/26	Lisle IL	Wilma Keyes	Barbara Miller
Region 11			
6/9	Missoula MT	Ron Dowell	Donna Dowel
5/19	Missoula MT	Gary Clark	Gary Clark

6/3	Twin Falls ID	Pattie Hurley	
5/19	Boise ID	Louisa Cone	Louisa Cone
Region 12			
5/5	Salt Lake City UT	Charlotte Easter	Charlotte Easter
6/1	Logan UT	Charlotte Brennand	Debra Demars
5/19	Salt Lake City UT	Randy Brown	Charlotte Easter
Region 13			
4/21	Portland OR	Chad Harris	Chad Harris
5/26	Portland OR	Chad Harris	Kay Ludi
5/28	Tacoma WA	Eileen Smiley	Eileen Smiley
6/2	Spokane Valley WA	Norma Lunden	Norma Lunden
Region 14			
4/21	Visalia CA	Helen Franklin	
4/21	Las Vegas NV	Evelyn Condo	
4/28	Auburn CA	Kathy Braaten	Kathy Braaten
5/12	Ukiah CA	Jean Near	Donna Branson
4/14	Clovis CA	Betty Bridger	
4/29	Redding CA	Sandy Olsen	Sandy Olsen
4/28	San Jose CA	Lisa Ayala	Lisa Ayala
4/28	Chico CA	Dorothy Showmaker	
4/28	Capitola CA	Diane Lauer-Harrison	Diane Lauer-Harrison
Region 15			
4/14	Woodland Hills CA	Peggy Carpenter	Frances Landin
4/14	Phoenix AZ	Clemence Newcomb	Clemence Newcomb
5/5	Palmdale CA	Joyce Bertram	
5/5	San Diego CA	Marylou Gibson	Marylou Gibson
4/28	Costa Mesa CA	Mike Monninger	(t) Mike Monninger/Angie
Fierro			
Region 17			
4/14	Cleburne TX	Peggy & Dan Cathey	Peggy & Dan Cathey
4/7	Austin TX	Sandy Schroeder	
4/14	Ft. Worth TX	Helene Welches	Josephine Harp
4/21	Waco TX	Hazel Haik	Hazel Haik
4/28	Sherman TX	Gordon Green	Gordon Green
4/14	Midland TX	Connie Ford	Connie Ford
4/21	Odessa TX	Pat Jones	Pat Jones
5/13	Amarillo TX	Dawn Boyer	Dawn Boyer
Region 18			
4/21	St Louis MO	Virginia Hill	Jean Morris
4/28	Union MO	Bernadette Pennington	Jean Morris
4/29	Wichita KS	Floanna Crowley	Floanna Crowley
5/13	Wichita KS	Sherryl Fitzpatrick	Sherryl Fitzpatrick
5/19	Dodge City KS	Carol Loker	Carol Loker
5/19	Overland Park KS	Carolyn Ash	
5/27	Wichita KS	Helen Reynolds	Floanna Crowley
6/10	Wentzville MO	Jean Morris	
Region 20			
5/20	Rocky Ford CO	Rose McClain	Karen Tomky
5/26	Denver CO	Richard Nolde	
6/9	Colorado Springs CO	Grace Syme	Grace Syme

Region 21

5/19	Lincoln NE	Kyle Pedersen	(t) Grace Farley & Nicole
Pedersen			
5/26	Scottsbluff NE	Kelly Jensen	Russell Saito

Region 22

4/21	Lawton OK	Brenda Nease	Brenda Nease
4/28	Lawton OK	David Barton	Brenda Nease
4/28	Enid OK	Doris George	Doris Gregory
4/28	Little Rock AR	Susan Elliott	Barbara Atwood
4/28	Hot Springs AR	Kay Kostelecky	
4/15	Norman OK	David Barton	David Barton
4/29	Lawton OK	David Barton	David Barton

Region 23

5/26	Santa Fe NM	Maggie Rubino	Shelby Green
4/28	Roswell NM	Pegi Naranjo	Pegi Naranjo

Youth Winners of 2007

DATE	LOCATION	BEST DESIGN	ARTISTIC SWEEPSTAKES
Region 5			
4/14	Milledgeville GA	Brittany White	None
Region 6			
6/2	Lansing MI	Megan Jerman	None
Region 9			
5/12	Lisle IL	Jessica Hendrickson	Jessica Hendrickson
5/26	Lisle IL	Rebecca Timko	(t) Jessica Hendrickson
Rebecca Timko			
Region 11			
6/3	Twin Falls ID	Ashley Clifford	None
Region 12			
6/1	Logan UT	Kira Brown	Kira Brown
Region 14			
4/28	San Jose CA	Scott Thompson	None
Region 15			
4/14	Woodland Hills CA	Eryn Canfield	Eryn Canfield
Region 17			
4/14	Midland TX	Stephanie Strauss	Stephanie Strauss
4/21	Odessa TX	Stephanie Strauss	Stephanie Strauss
5/13	Amarillo TX	Serena Shelte	Serena Shelte
Region 18			
5/13	Wichita KS	Hope Winzer	None
4/28	Union MO	Megan Pennington	Allison Grzeskowiak
Region 20			
6/9	Colorado Springs CO	Jason Wheeler	Jason Wheeler
Region 22			
4/28	Lawton OK	Whitney James	None
Region 23			
4/28	Roswell NM	Jennifer Royalty	Jennifer Royalty

International News

Compiled by Anna Cadd, California

Thank you to all international correspondents, who contributed to this compiled article: Sergey Loktev, Maria Collasante, Chantal Sulmont, Anne-Marie Chesnais, Jerzy Wozniak, Gisela Dathe, Clive Russell, Masahiro Shiino, Anna Cadd, Howard Bushnell, Lawrence Ransom.

International competitions in 2007

XII International Competition for Tall Bearded Irises in Moscow, Russia:

- First Place: 'Don't Touch' (Black 03)
- Second Place: 'Twirl the Kilt' (Blyth 02)
- Third Place: 'Chuckwagon' (Black 03)

V Competition for Tall Bearded Irises in Kuban, Region of Krasnodar, Russia:

- First Place: 'Solomennaja Szliapka' (O. Riabykh 06)
- Second Place: 'Uvlethenie' (Loktev 05)
- Third Place: 'Bremenskij Muzykant' (O. Riabykh 05)

Popularity vote for irises being seen during the X Convention of Russian Iris Society on July 19-20, 2007 in Krasnodar, Russia:

- First Place: 'Louis's Song' (Blyth 99, TB), 'That's All Folks' (Maryott 05, TB)
- Second Place: 'Decadence' (Blyth 04, TB)
- Third Place: 'Gypsy Lord' (Keppel 06, TB), 'Hollywood Nights' (Duncan 01, TB), 'Parisian Dawn' (Keppel 05, TB), 'Winning Edge' (Ghio 97, TB).

51 International Italian Iris Society Competition in Florence, Italy – Premio Firenze – “Gold Fiorin”:

- First Place: Premio Firenze of the Tourist Organisation: 'Aurelie' (Cayeux 02, TB), France
- Second Place: Tuscany Region Prize: 'Sorriso Di Alice' (Marucchi, TB), Italy
- Third Place: Silver Plate of Industrial Organisation: 'Red Masterpiece' (Schreiners 04, TB), USA
- Societa Toscana di Orticoltura Prize the Best Border Variety – 'Be My Baby' (Black 04, TB), USA.

Third International French Iris Society (Société Française des Iris et Plantes Bulbeuses/SFIB) Competition in Jouy-en-Josas, Tecomah Institute, France.

- First Place: 'Solovinaya Noch' (Miroshichenko, TB) UKRAINE

- Second Place: 'Mamy Framboise' (V.Fur 04, TB), France
- Third Place: 'Italian Ice' (A. & D. Cadd 01, TB), USA.

Middle-European Iris Society (MEIS) International Competition in Wroclaw-Ratowice-Wojslawice, Poland

- First Place : Carpathian Trophy - 'Beyond Paradise' (A. & D. Cadd 04, TB), USA
- Second Place: 'Sonet Shekspira' (I. Horosh, TB) Ukraine
- Third Place: 'Innocent Devil' (A. & D. Cadd 03, TB), USA
- Polish Trophy for the Best variety by Polish Hybridizer - J. Wozniak, Poland
- Czech Trophy for the Best variety by Czech Hybridizer - Josef Dudek, Czech Republic
- Slovak Trophy for the Best variety by Slovak Hybridizer - Anton Mego, Slovakia

German Iris Society International Iris - Iris - Fachgruppe DER Gesellschaft der Staudenfreunde Competition in Munich, Germany

Tall Bearded final results after two years of competition - International Hybridizer:

- First Place and Gold Medal: 'Violet Ballerina' (A. & D. Cadd 03) USA
- Second Place and Silver Medal: 'Poesie' (Cayeux 03), France
- Third Place and Bronze Medal: 'Ujlak' (A. Mego), Slovakia

Tall Bearded final results after two years of competition - German Hybridizer:

- First Place and Gold Medal: 'Alrun' (M.Beer), Germany
- Second Place and Silver Medal: 'Muenchen' (W. Landgraf), Germany
- Third Place and Bronze Medal: 'Bayern' (W. Landgraf), Germany

Tall Bearded final results after first year of competition - International Hybridizer:

- First Place: 'Lumarco' (Cayeux 06) France
- Second Place: 'Laterna Magica' (L. Muska) Slovakia
- Third Place: 'Placebo' (L. Muska 03) Slovakia

Tall Bearded final results after first year of competition - German Hybridizer:

- First Place: 'Orlaperle' (W. Landgraf), Germany
- Second Place: 'Orlatal' (W. Landgraf), Germany
- Third Place: Seedling 13/94 B (M. Beer), Germany

SDB Competition - Final Results after two years:

- First Place and Gold Medal: 'Musterknabe' (F. Kathe 07), Germany

SDB Competition - Final Results after one year:

- First Place: 'Paradigm Shift' (Chapman 07), Canada
- Runner-up: 'Fire Coral' (T. Aitken 07), USA

Trial of Median Bearded Iris 2005-2007 (an RHS Long Term Trial, AMG Award List) Wisley, England

There were 151 entries in this trial in which the irises were assessed by the Joint Iris Committee over three years, 82 of which were included in the display of previous AGM winners. Assessment was based on the following point system:

Plant 35%, Stem 15%, Flower 30%, Presentation 20%.

The Committee awarded the Award of Garden Merit (H4) to:

Standard Dwarf Bearded:

‘Cameo Queen’ (B. Jones 01), USA

‘Flirting Again’ (T. Aitken 02), USA

‘Pumpin’ Iron’ (P. Black 90), USA

Intermediate bearded:

‘Cranbrook’ (O. Wells), England

‘Londonberry’ (K. Keppel 95), USA

‘Shirley Chandler’ (O. Wells), England

Miniature Tall Bearded

‘Bangles’ (L. Miller 93), USA

‘Enriched’ (J. & V. Craig 00), USA

Border Bearded

‘Elegant Lass’ (V. Craig 02), USA

‘Princess Bride’ (G. Sutton 99), USA 

International Society News

News from the Japan Iris Society:

Reporter: Masahiro Shiino

The Annual General Meeting of The Japan Iris Society was held on January 27, 2007 in Tokyo and Masahiro Shiino, President and Hiroshi Shimizu, Senior Director were elected as key officials of The Japan Iris Society. They both are also the members of The American Iris Society.

This season, we had the following two Hanashobu exhibitions (Japanese Iris) and the crowds gathered and were fascinated with the beautiful displays in front of Golden Screen, realizing classical presentation of Samurai era. They were: Special Event "FLOWER" at National Science Museum, Tokyo from June 5 to June 17, 2007 and

'Hanashobu Show' at Ohfuna Flower Center, Kamakura from June 12 to June 17, 2007. For these events, Bonsai type of Hanashobu were also shown and won applause for their skilled workmanship.

22 members visited the north east area of Hokkaido from July 22 to July 24, 2007 and were excited to see full blooming scenery in vast habitats of *Iris ensata* spreading in Kiritappu bogs and on Notsuke Peninsula. We were glad that these important habitats have been safely protected from fading away due to environmental pollution.

News from the British iris Society;

From Clive Russell, British Iris Society

The BIS held its Annual General Meeting on Saturday, September 15, 2007, at which the following awards were made:

Pilkington Award to Alice Baughen for her supportive work at all BIS shows.

Foster Memorial Plaque to Clarence Mahan for his book "Classic Irises and the Men and Women who created them."

Bob Nichol Trophy to the Kent Group Convention Committee (Olga Wells, Thelma Naylor, Carole & Brian Hersey, Anne Oakley, Berney & Alice Baughen and Chris and Hilary Towers) for the work done over the past 3 years to make the 2007 convention a success.

Dykes Medal not awarded

Fothergill Trophy to Bryan Dodsworth for BLAEBERRY PIE

Souvenir de M. Lemon Trophy to Olga Wells for HEADCORN

Brummitt Award not awarded

News from the French iris Society

From Chantal Sulmont

The Judges for International iris Competition Franciris 2007 were Stephanie Boot (NZ), Milan Blazek (CZ), Cy Bartlett (UK), Jerome Boulon (FR) and Sylvain Ruaud (FR). The New Zealand judge was elected President of the Jury by the other judges. The Winner of the First Place, Nina Miroschnichenko from Ukraine is the 92 years young and the veteran of France Competition. Everybody was very happy, that her irises were in top form throughout the international judging session. Milan Blazek was delighted to be able to telephone her from TECOMAH, and exchange a few words in Russian.

The weather condition with summer level temperatures, unusual during the iris blooming season was unfortunate for the condition of the

irises. Then there were stormy and rainy days during the Judging week, and irises were discreetly staked.

In the name of all the members of the SFIB and of all the Jouy-en-Josas team, thank you for participating in FRANCIRIS 2007 by sending your irises, and I can only invite you to come and visit the TECOMAH show garden during the next flowering season, in May 2008. The irises remain in situ for 4 years. The irises from FRANCIRIS 2005 have been placed beside those for the 2007 competition to give more space. The new presentation created by the TECOMAH students and their tutor Philippe Marqueyssat is superb, and our judges, as well as all the visitors, were extremely impressed. 🌸

(more international news on page 56)

Judges' Update

By Judy Keisling, AIS Judges' Training Chair

Changes to Judges' Titles

Comments from judges on last year's title change to Senior Judge for individuals who have served as a judge for fifteen years have prompted the AIS Board of Directors to change the title for this category to Master Judge. And, because the 2007 title revisions also changed the former Emeritus title to Master, the title of Emeritus has been restored. These changes are effective immediately and are reflected in the list of 2008 AIS Judges in this issue.

Because the new *Seventh Edition of the Handbook for Judges and Show Officials* reflects the title changes made for 2007, judges should make the following revisions in their handbooks: change all references to Senior Judges to Master Judges and all references to Master Judges to Emeritus.

Retired Judges

By definition, a fully accredited AIS judge is currently any approved judge in the following categories: Garden Exhibition (G/E), Master (M), Emeritus (E) and Overseas (OS). Only fully accredited judges may judge in an accredited show, or present a for-credit judges training course. Therefore, a retired judge may not judge in an accredited show, nor may a retired judge present a for-credit judges training course. Retired judges are no longer included in the annual approved judge listing published in the Bulletin or found on the web page

In-Garden Training

At the AIS Fall Board Meeting in November 2005, a change was made to the training requirements for Garden/Exhibition and Master Judges. That change specified that credit for in-garden training hours must be earned as part of the number of training hours required during each three-year period. The end of the first 3-year period in which this requirement is applicable for Garden/Exhibition and Master Judges is fast approaching – that deadline is July 31, 2008. Judges who have questions about the number of in-garden hours for which they have received credit should check with their Regional Judges' Training Chair.

To clarify the number of training hour required:

Garden/Exhibition Judges must earn credit totaling five hours (two hours must be in-garden training) during each three-year period.

Master Judges are required to earn credit totaling three hours (one hour must be in-garden training) during each three year period.

All judges are encouraged to read Chapter 1 of the *Seventh Edition of the Handbook for Judges and Show Officials* to familiarize themselves with all of the detailed requirements regarding accreditation of judges. 

Approved AIS Judges for 2008

Compiled by Judy Keisling, Judges' Training Chair

NOTE: The designation of two judges' titles has changed effective 01-01-08. The revised titles are as follows: M = Master (formerly Senior) and E = Emeritus (formerly Master). All other titles (A = Apprentice, G/E = Garden Exhibition, and OS = Overseas) remain the same. Note that Retired Judges are not included in this listing.

REGION 1

G/E Bruce Bennett
M Ruth Bennett
M Lucy G. Burton
M John H. Burton II
G/E Hao Chang
G/E Phillip W. Cook
G/E Paul J. Dostie
M Chandler Fulton
M Elaine Fulton
G/E Ellen M. Gallagher
M Ada Godfrey
G/E William Godfrey
M Dr. Warren C. Hazelton
M Lynn F. Markham
G/E Stephanie A. Markham
M David Nitka
A Edward Norton
E William H. Peck
E Mrs. Maurice B. Pope, Jr.
G/E Janet Sacks
M Robert H. Sawyer
G/E Martin Schafer
G/E David Schmieder
E Mrs. David Schmieder
E Kenneth M. Waite
G/E Andrew Wheeler
M Deborah Wheeler
M John W. White
M Rebecca Wong
M Peter J. Young
G/E Michael Zuraw

REGION 2

M David Baehre

G/E Joanne Bassett
G/E John Colley
G/E Clayton Crandall
G/E Diane Crandall
M Maria Gerbracht
G/E John W. Heimke
G/E Donna James
G/E Ronald James
G/E Eugene Koschara
G/E Mildred Koschara
A Dan Maier
A Joanne Maier
G/E Ella Murphy
G/E Floyd Reitzel
M Wendy K. Roller
G/E Vaughn Sayles
M Helen B. Schueler
G/E Mary Jane Shanley
G/E Jamie Smith
G/E Janette Smith
G/E Frank Sorbello
G/E Dorothy Stiefel
G/E Judith Tucholski

REGION 3

M Charles Conklin
G/E Joyce Corrin
M Harold L. Griffie
G/E R. Dennis Hager
E Sterling U. Innerst
M Theresa Jewell
M Jason A. Leader
M Patricia A. Leader
G/E Vincent Lewonski
M Robert M. McFarland

A Carol Ann Moyer
M Joan Roberts
M Ken Roberts
M Ronald J. Thomon

REGION 4

G/E Ruth Barker
G/E Pat Bowen
G/E Randell Bowen
G/E Glenna Castillo
E E. Roy Epperson
A June Hood
G/E L. Bruce Hornstein
A Karen Jones
A Ramon Jones
G/E Daniel Laing
G/E Kristen Laing
G/E Linda Laing
G/E Michael Lockatell
M Anne Lowe
M Mike Lowe
E Clarence E. Mahan
A Anita Moran
G/E Bea Rogers
A John Rosini
G/E Donald W. Rude
A Jim Schroetter
G/E Merrick E. Shawe
G/E William C. Smoot
G/E Donald M. Spoon
G/E Virginia Spoon
M Katharine M. Steele
G/E Frances Thrash
G/E David L. Traylor
E Carol Warner

G/E Carrie Winter
M Joan R. Wood

REGION 5

A Edna W. Aponte
G/E Mary T. Bolton
G/E Brenda P. Briley
G/E R. Lee Byous
G/E Ken Duke
G/E Marshall L. Goforth
A Dixie Griffis
M Carolyn R. Hawkins
G/E Sue Kilgore
M Mrs. A. J. Kirby
G/E Doris L. Lewallen
E Rev. E. L. Lineberger
M Michael Moller
A Cheryl Pierce
G/E Steve Smart
M Mrs. Wayne C. Smith, Jr.
M Wayne C. Smith, Jr.
M Mrs. Robert L. Terpening
M Robert L. Terpening
G/E Joyce Thrift
M Jeffrey L. Walters
G/E Janet Watson
M Joe Scott Watson
A Jeanette White
M Fredericka R. Wilson
M Earnest Yearwood

REGION 6

M Robert A. Bauer
G/E Dr. Charles A. Bunnell
M Ann A. Cline
M John A. Coble
M James A. Copeland
M Jill Copeland
A Adam Cordes
A Kathleen Devlin
A Luke Dreyer
M Rolla L. Eich
G/E Frances G. Holecek
G/E Rose J. Holecek
M R. M. Hollingworth
M Rae J. Johnson
A Inge Mesik
M Anna Mae Miller
E Lynda Miller

M Roger Miller
M Kathy J. Moore
M Carol Morgan
G/E Jody Nolin
G/E Charles Rumbaugh
G/E Donald R. Sorenson
E Dr. Harold L. Stahly
A Janet L. Wilke
E Anthony Willott
E Mrs. Anthony Willott
M Doris Winton
G/E Lana Wolfe
G/E Donna Wolford
G/E Harry Wolford
G/E Joyce Wozniak

REGION 7

M Sue Ann Barnes
M Larry R. Browning
M Linda Browning
M Betty Burch
M Carol Burch
M James G. Burch
G/E Badger H. Carney
G/E Carol Ann Carney
E Hilda Crick
G/E Susan Egbert
M James L. Ennenga
M Gwen Godwin
G/E Darnell Hester
M Mrs. Arvid Honkanen
M Mrs. Donald R. King
A Annette Milch
A William S. Miller
G/E Caroline S. Nave
M Jerry Phillips
M Mrs. Jerry Phillips
A Burk Renner
M June F. Richards
A Lorene Robinson
G/E Deborah J. Harris Royal
G/E Earnest L. Royal
A G. Russell
M Gary D. Sides
G/E Robert L. Strohmman
G/E Jean M. Sturtevant
M Willa Swack
G/E Mary Thurman
A Evan L. Underwood

G/E James Van Hook
G/E John P. Van Hook
G/E Lessie Van Hook
G/E Marilyn Vernon
G/E Betty Wilkerson
E Phillip A. Williams
M James H. Wilson
G/E Janet L. Wilson
G/E Caroline Winters
G/E Chuck Winters

REGION 8

M Melvin Bausch
M Mrs. Melvin Bausch
E Joan Cooper
M W. E. Doehne
G/E William C. Dougherty
M M. Lynne Fell
G/E Charlotte Holte
G/E Barbara Sautner
G/E John Sautner
M Jack Worel

REGION 9

A Diana Anshakov
A Fred Bennett
G/E Norma Bennett
M Margaret G. Bensen
G/E John L. Bilski
M Mrs. Orville Dickhaut
M Orville Dickhaut
G/E Richard C. Funk
G/E Anne Hamblin
G/E Dale L. Hamblin
G/E Patrick Hayden
M Cathy Simon Hendrickson
G/E Jeanette Hensley
G/E Ann Henson
G/E Ernie Henson
G/E Margaret J. Kelly
M Susan E. Leeper
M Mrs. Roland J. Meyer
G/E Larry Miller
G/E Mrs. Larry Miller
A Cheryl Pettus
G/E Nancy E. Pocklington
M George S. Poole
M C. J. Simon
M Mrs. C. J. Simon

M Leslie J. Smith
 A Anita Stephens
 G/E Mark Timko
 M Nancy Simon Timko
 E D. Steve Varner
 M Jerry Wilhoit
 M Melody Wilhoit

REGION 10

M Dorman Haymon
 M Bud McSparrin
 M Rusty McSparrin
 M Mrs. Hubert Rena

REGION 11

G/E Jayme Adams
 M Eileen Allison
 G/E Gary W. Clark
 G/E Carol L. Coleman
 A Kenneth Coleman
 G/E Cindy Davis
 G/E Irene DeRose
 G/E Janet G. DeRousse
 G/E Jeanette Graham
 G/E Erling Gustafson
 G/E Diane Lukesh
 G/E Roger Muir
 G/E James Sadler
 M Alverta Symes
 G/E Sharon Touchstone
 G/E Angelique Violette
 G/E Lynn Weger

REGION 12

G/E Susan Boyce
 G/E Charlotte Brennard
 G/E Lynn Hess
 M B. Brad Kasperek
 G/E Kathie Kasperek
 G/E Joan R. McFadden
 G/E Thomas J. Miller
 M Suzanne Parry
 M Cathy Hagen Reed
 G/E Leon Robertson
 M DeRay Taylor
 G/E L. Val Wilson

REGION 13

M Ellen Abrego
 M Thomas Abrego
 E Barbara Aitken

E Terry Aitken
 G/E Louise Allison
 G/E Phyllis M. Barnett
 M Paul W. Black
 A Ann Booth
 G/E Dwayne A. Booth
 M Carole Breedlove
 M Dr. Alan D. Brooks
 M James R. Browne
 M Caroline Burke
 G/E Rita E. Butler
 G/E Deborah A. Cole
 M Joanne Mentz Derr
 G/E Vicki K. Dudley
 G/E Arnold W. Ferguson
 G/E Bruce Filardi
 M Debra Gillespie
 M Chad Harris
 M Fran Hawk
 G/E Tom Johnson
 E Bennett C. Jones
 E Keith Keppel
 G/E Carla Lankow
 M George F. Lankow
 M John W. Ludi
 G/E Beverly Petrak
 G/E Tracy Plotner
 G/E William E. Plotner
 G/E Nancy Price
 E Lorena M. Reid
 A Philip Remare
 M Gerald L. Richardson
 M Bill Rinehart
 M David Schreiner
 M Ray Schreiner
 M Doris E. Shinn
 M David Silverberg
 M Marky D. Smith
 G/E Denise Stewart
 G/E Patti Wenham
 A Darlene Wheeler
 A Bob Williamson
 A Sandra Williamson
 E Jean G. Witt
 M Debby Zook

REGION 14

G/E James Begley
 G/E Art Bern

G/E Ross Bevier
 G/E Helen Bliven
 G/E Kathy Braaten
 G/E Anna Cadd
 G/E David Cadd
 M Mrs. Mark Condo
 E Glenn E. Corlew
 G/E Betty A. Coyle
 G/E Christine Dickinson
 G/E Mrs. William H. Fink
 G/E William H. Fink
 A Betty Ford
 G/E Mary Lee Fortner
 A Paul Fortner
 E Joseph J. Ghio
 M Barry Ivens
 G/E John I. Jones
 M Frederick J. Kerr
 M Richard Lauer
 M Kitty Loberg
 G/E Sandra Mann
 M Ed Matheny, III
 G/E Joanne McGrew
 E Mrs. William Messick
 M Alleah B. Middling
 G/E Lorraine Nicholson
 M Fred C. Parvin
 G/E John M. Pesek III
 M Jeanne Clay Plank
 G/E Joanne Prass-Jones
 G/E Joyce Ragle
 M Lucile Ray
 A Jean Richter
 M George H. Sutton
 M Margaret Sutton
 G/E Michael Sutton
 M Richard Tasco
 G/E Hiromi Uyeda
 G/E Dorlene Waite
 E Dr. John H. Weiler
 M Barbara Whitely
 M James Whitely
 G/E Lynn Williams
 G/E Ronald Wolberg
 G/E Mary Ann Worth

REGION 15

M Irene Benton
 G/E Joyce Bertram

G/E Jill Bonino
 A Carole Buchhelm
 A Paul Buchhelm
 G/E Peggy Carpenter
 G/E Kathy Chilton
 G/E Cheryl Deaton
 G/E Francelle Edwards
 G/E Eileen Fiumara
 G/E Derry Gerald
 G/E Jim Giles
 M Ardi Kary
 G/E Marjorie Larson
 A Barbara J. Lauck
 M Lynn McIlwain
 M Dr. Edward Murray
 A Kristen Nelson
 M Joella R. Olson
 G/E Patrick Orr
 E Mrs. Edward Owen
 G/E Jane C. Parks
 G/E Marilyn Pecoraro
 G/E Avery Poling
 G/E Joyce Poling
 M James Puckett
 G/E John H. Reinschmidt
 G/E Gerald C. Snyder
 G/E Hilward Stenson
 G/E Winona Stevenson
 M Jane G. Troutman
 M Jack Weber
 M John Wight

REGION 16

A Kate Brewitt
 G/E Chuck Chapman
 A Sylvia Chapman
 A Eleanor Hutchison
 A Emily Ives
 G/E Raymond Ives
 A Terrance Laurin
 G/E Maureen Mark
 M Gloria McMillen
 G/E Ken Viner

REGION 17

G/E E. A. Addington
 G/E Alene Arnold
 G/E Dr. L. M. Begley
 G/E Dawn K. Boyer

G/E Annette Brown
 M Dana Brown
 G/E Vernon Brown
 G/E Pat Byrne
 E Marie Caillet
 G/E Rosemary English
 G/E Connie Ford
 M Doug Goodnight
 M Gordon Green
 M Nona Hoecker
 M Mrs. Charles A. Howard
 M Mrs. Vernon H. Keesee
 G/E Helen Kinnamon
 G/E David Lamb
 M Peggy Lamb
 G/E Jim Landers
 M Bonnie Nichols
 M Hooker Nichols
 G/E Dell S. Perry
 G/E Areta Phillips
 M Patsy L. Rosen
 M Keith A. Smith
 M Debra Strauss
 A Stephanie Strauss
 M Mary Wilber
 A Doris Wilkinson

REGION 18

G/E Patricia Ardisonne
 G/E Carolyn Ash
 M Harry J. Boyd
 A Bonnie Chronister
 M Donald Delmez
 A Joseph DeVous
 A Karen M. DeVous
 G/E Judy Eckhoff
 G/E Barbara Fouts
 A Ed Giddens
 A Susan Giddens
 A Allison Grzeskowiak
 G/E Nichole Grzeskowiak
 M Jim Hedgecock
 M Calvin H. Helsley
 G/E Doris Hessee
 M Virginia Hill
 G/E Jerry Hoke
 A Debora Hughes
 G/E Nyla Hughes
 M Audrey Judy

M Dan C. Judy
 G/E Judy Keisling
 M Joan Kellar
 G/E Doris J. Loveland
 G/E Carol D. Moore
 M Kevin J. Morley
 E James W. Morris
 E Mrs. James W. Morris
 M James Murrain
 G/E Barbara Nicodemus
 E O. D. Niswonger
 M Robert Pries
 M Riley Probst
 G/E Kendal Rohr
 G/E Cindy Rust
 G/E Stephanie Rust
 G/E Barbara Schuette
 A Robert E. Skaggs
 M Stephen Stevens
 G/E Len Suchy
 M Eric Tankesley-Clarke
 M Robert Tankesley-Clarke
 G/E Mike Theissen
 G/E Shirley Trio
 G/E Dennis VanLanduyt
 M James Waddick
 G/E Clancy Walz
 G/E Adrian Wills
 G/E Naida Wills
 A Lyn Wilson
 G/E James Winzer
 G/E Laurie Winzer

REGION 19

G/E Catherine Button
 M Chun Fan
 G/E Martha Ann Griner
 G/E Gary D. Slagle II
 M Nancy Szmuriga
 G/E Mary R. Townsend

REGION 20

G/E Martha Artzberger
 G/E Lowell Baumunk III
 G/E Stephen Blecher
 M Linda M. Doty-Nystrom
 M Carol Eacker
 M Russell Eacker
 A Elsie Funk

A Sally Funk
 E Catherine Long Gates
 M Dennis B. Gates
 A Glenn Guenterberg
 G/E Lynda D. Love
 M Thomas L. Magee
 G/E Ellen McIntosh
 M David G. Miller
 M Patricia Morgan
 M Betty Roberts
 G/E Grace Syme
 A Robert Van Liere

REGION 21

G/E Lee Charlton
 G/E Paula Charlton
 E Allan G. Ensminger
 A Grace Farley
 G/E Rita Gormley
 M Charles C. Hemmer
 M Michael C. Hemmer
 M Mrs. Charles C. Hemmer
 M Marjorie A. Jansen
 G/E Arnold Koekkoek
 G/E Christa Kohout
 M Richard Kohout
 M Carolyn D. Lingenfelter
 M Roger P. Mazur
 M LeRoy Meininger
 G/E Leland H. Nelson
 G/E Neal E. Pohlman
 G/E Robin Shadlow
 M Tim Stanek
 G/E Connie Vanecek
 G/E Dorothy Ver Hey
 G/E Gary E. White
 M Opal Wulf

REGION 22

G/E Ann D. Barrows
 G/E Linda Bell
 G/E Michael A. Blake
 G/E James B. Bledsoe
 M Doris Boyles
 M Louise Carson
 G/E Gregory D. Cary
 G/E Peggy J. Chumley
 G/E Maureen Corder
 M Perry Dyer

G/E M. D. Faith
 G/E Ramona French
 G/E Carol Goldsberry
 M Paul W. Gossett
 G/E June P. Hardy
 G/E Elsie Harrow
 G/E Greer Holland
 G/E Mary Ann Holman
 M La Vera Johnson
 M Helen Jones
 G/E Nancy Kowalchuk
 M Betty Lou McMartin
 G/E F. W. McVicker
 G/E Peggy Meekins
 G/E Jo Ann Minter
 E Ronald Mullin
 G/E Bettie M. Nash
 E Perry L. Parrish
 G/E Lyle Reininger
 M James W. Russell
 M Marthella Shoemake
 G/E Monte Stahl
 M Mrs. Philip Stonecipher
 M Philip Stonecipher
 G/E Hugh Stout
 G/E Robert Treadway
 M Mary P. Watson
 M Beatrice A. Williams
 M Lillian C. Williams
 G/E Joshua Winzer

REGION 23

M Karen Bergamo
 M Mrs. Milton J. Clauser
 G/E Ann Colwell
 G/E Helen K. Crotty
 A Frances Day
 G/E Henry J. Day
 M Phil Doonan
 G/E Alverton Elliott
 A Sherron Elliott
 G/E Patricia J. Feather
 G/E Ken Fladager
 G/E Clifton Frosch
 G/E Dr. Scott Jordan
 G/E Reita Jordan
 G/E Pam Lackey
 G/E Pegi Naranjo

M Maxine Perkins
 G/E Patricia Randall
 G/E James Reilly
 G/E Cindy H. Rivera
 M Mrs. Walter C. White

REGION 24

G/E Scott W. Grant
 M Clara B. Henderson
 M Joe M. Langdon
 M Walter A. Moores
 M Edith Mitchell Nevels
 M Donald R. Saxton
 M Mrs. Donald R. Saxton
 E Mrs. R. P. VanValkenburgh

OVERSEAS

OS C. E. C. Bartlett
 OS Augusto Bianco
 OS Barry Blyth
 OS Jérôme Boulon
 OS Richard Cayeux
 OS Gisela Dathe
 OS Graeme Grosvenor
 OS Akira Horinaka
 OS Willy Hublau
 OS Margaret Cameron Longo
 OS Maria Carla Monaco
 OS Bernard Pryor
 OS Heather Pryor
 OS Valeria Pallesi Romoli
 OS Valeria Roselli
 OS John C. Russell
 OS Zdenek Seidl
 OS Hiroshi Shimizu
 OS Tomas Tamberg
 OS John C. Taylor
 OS Rainer Zeh 

How to Register and Introduce an Iris

Anne & Mike Lowe, AIS Registrar/Recorder

These instructions apply to the registration of all classes of irises except bulbous irises.

Registration

1. Write to the AIS Registrar/Recorder, Anne & Mike Lowe, 12219 Zilles Rd., Blackstone, VA 23824, for a registration blank, enclosing check for the registration fee payable to the American Iris Society. The Registrar will supply a sample application form upon receipt of a stamped self-addressed envelope or a printable PDF registration form is available for download on www.irises.org in the registrations section. The fee is \$10.00 per registration, or \$10.00 if transferring a name from a previous registration.

2. At the same time, select a name which has not previously been used and submit it for approval. To determine availability of name, please refer to all ten-year Check Lists (beginning 1939) and annual Registrations and Introductions booklets (beginning 2000). (www.IrisRegister.com is another resource for checking name availability. Contact John I Jones <jjones@usjoneses.com>) Please also suggest alternate names. A name is not registered until the registration application has been completed and approved and a certificate of registration returned to you.

3. Names should follow the rules established by the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. Rules are subject to change, but at the present time the following names will not be permitted:

- a. Names of living persons without their written consent, or names of recently (10 years) deceased persons without permission of next of kin or other authority.
- b. Personal names containing the following forms of address or their equivalent in another language: Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.
- c. Names including symbols, numerals, non-essential punctuation or abbreviations.
- d. Names beginning with the articles "a" or "the" or their equivalent in other languages unless required by linguistic custom.
- e. Names in Latin or in Latinized form.
- f. Slight variation of a previously registered name.

- g. Names in excess of four words or thirty letters.
- h. Names containing the word "iris" or "flag" or the species name of any recognized species of *Iris*, or formed wholly by recombining parts of the parental species' names.
- i. Names containing the hybridizer's name in possessive form.
- j. Names which exaggerate or may become inaccurate (e.g. Heaviest Lace, Tallest Black) or which are composed solely of adjectives which could be construed as a simple description (e.g. Pale Blue, Ruffled).
- k. Names translated from the original language; they should be transliterated as necessary.

4. Previously registered names may be re-used only if (a) the original registration has not been introduced or distributed by name, (b) does not appear by name in the parentage of later registrations, (c) has not been previously re-issued and (d) a statement of permission is obtained from the prior registrant.

5. Names will not be released as obsolete unless there is proof that no stock now exists and that the iris was not listed as a parent in registrations.

Reserving a name

Names may be reserved for a three-year period by paying a \$10.00 fee for each name desired. Please give alternatives. If it is desired to retain a reserved name past the initial three-year period it must be renewed (for an additional three years) by paying \$10.00 at the end of the third year.

Introduction

Introduction is the offering for sale to the public. Catalogs, printed lists, internet offerings and advertisements in the American Iris Society Bulletin are acceptable means of introduction. It is a requisite of awards of the Society above that of High Commendation. A variety is not eligible for listing on the awards ballot until after it has been recorded as introduced by the Registrar/Recorder. Send the Registrar a copy of your list, catalog, a printed copy of the webpage and the webpage URL or your advertisement, by first class mail, so verification of introduction can be made. 

Symposium Results

R2007	R2008	CULTIVAR	VOTES	HYBRIDIZER	YEAR	SEASON	HEIGHT	COLOR
1	1	DUSKY CHALLENGER	368	Schreiner	86	M-L	39"	dark purple
4	2	CONJURATION	284	M. Byers	89	M-L	36"	white & violet white Horns
4	3	JESSE'S SONG	263	B. Williamson	83	M	36"	white & violet plicata
3	4	STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN	229	L. Lauer	93	E-M	40"	off white S./ med. bl.F
10	5	QUEEN'S CIRCLE	227	F. Kerr	0	ML	32"	white, blue border on F
2	6	SILVERADO	225	Schreiner	87	M	38"	light silver blue
6	7	THORNBIRD	219	M. Byers	89	M	35"	ecru tan vio. horns
8	8	SEA POWER	211	K. Keppel	99	M	38"	ruffled blue
7	9	CELEBRATION SONG	204	Schreiner	93	E-M-L	37"	apricot-pink S. blue-lavender falls
11	9	BEVERLY SILLS	204	B. Hager	79	M	36"	pink
21	11	MESMERIZER	196	M. Byers	91	M	36"	white/white flounces
13	12	STEPPING OUT	183	Schreiner	64	M-L	38"	white & violet plicata
15	13	LADY FRIEND	178	J. Ghio	81	VE-E	38"	garnet red
14	14	GOLDEN PANTHER	169	R. Tasco	'00	M	34"	gold/bronze
17	15	YAQUINA BLUE	166	Schreiner	92	M	37"	medium blue
9	16	BEFORE THE STORM	165	S. Innerst	89	M	36"	near black
27	17	SKATING PARTY	164	L. Gaulter	83	M-L	40"	white
12	18	SPLASHACATA	161	R. Tasco	98	M	35"	purple on white dotted plicata
20	19	IMMORTALITY	157	L. Zurbrigg	84	M&Re	30"	white
22	19	EDITH WOLFORD	157	B. Hager	86	M	40"	yellow S.;blue-violet F
18	21	HELLO DARKNESS	155	Schreiner	93	E-M	37"	purple black
24	21	VANITY	155	B. Hager	75	E-L	36"	pink
16	23	HAPPENSTANCE	153	K. Keppel	0	M	37"	pink
26	24	TITAN'S GLORY	152	Schreiner	81	E-M	37"	dark violet
23	25	CLARENCE	149	L. Zurbrigg	91	M&Re	35"	white S; lt. blue
30	26	STARRING	144	J. Ghio	0	ML	33"	white S; purp. black F
19	27	HONKY TONK BLUES	141	Schreiner	88	M	37"	hyacinth blue
31	28	LACED COTTON	135	Schreiner	80	M-L	34"	white
33	29	MARY FRANCES	131	L. Gaulter	72	M	38"	blue-orchid
40	30	PAUL BLACK	127	T. Johnson	'03	ML	42"	dark purple, orange bd.
29	31	SONG OF NORWAY	124	W. Luihn	79	M-L	38"	powder blue
28	32	CROWNED HEADS	122	K. Keppel	97	M	38"	wistaria S, lt. blue F.
48	33	DRAMA QUEEN	121	K. Keppel	'03	EM	38"	cyclamen/ capucine plicata
38	34	SUPREME SULTAN	120	Schreiner	88	M-L	40"	yellow S; crimson F
25	35	WORLD PREMIER	113	Schreiner	98	ML	37"	blue white S, dk. blue violet F w white rim
32	35	CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE	113	D. Niswonger	87	M	33"	pink & apricot
42	37	JURASSIC PARK	108	L. Lauer	95	EM	36"	yellow S, purple F
	38	DECADENCE	107	Barry Blyth	'04	M	38"	apricot S, plum F w. apricot edge

R2007	R2008	CULTIVAR	VOTES	HYBRIDIZER	YEAR	SEASON	HEIGHT	COLOR
36	39	VICTORIA FALLS	105	Schreiner	77	E-L	40"	blue; white spot on F
39	40	SUPERSTITION	104	Schreiner	77	M	36"	maroon black
37	41	RUSTLER	101	K. Keppel	88	M	37"	gold-brown
43	41	GOING MY WAY	101	J. Gibson	72	M	37"	white & violet plicata
35	43	DIABOLIQUE	99	Schreiner	97	ML	38"	garnet purple
40	44	ACOMA	97	T. Magee	90	E	30"	pale blue/violet plicata
52	44	DAUGHTER OF STARS	97	D. Spoon	'00	EM&RE	35"	purple w white edge
45	46	STARSHIP ENTERPRISE	95	Schreiner	99	ML	36"	white S; cream F w magenta band
34	47	POEM OF ECSTASY	93	B. Hager	97	M	36"	peach pink S, deep lavender F
53	48	JOYCE TERRY	92	T. Muhlestein	74	M-L	38"	yellow & white w. yellow edge
57	49	GYPSY ROMANCE	90	Schreiner	94	M-L	37"	violet raspberry
83	50	SLOVAK PRINCE	89	A. Mego	'03	M	33"	S orchid w gold rim, Fdk purple w white zone
44	51	BRIDE'S HALO	87	H. Mohr	73	E-L	36"	white edged yellow
45	51	FOGBOUND	87	K. Keppel	98	M	40"	soft blue S, white F
76	51	MILLENNIUM FALCON	87	B. Kasperek	0	M	38"	blue bitone w. white streaks
48	54	CITY LIGHTS	86	M. Dunn	91	M	37"	blue/white spot on F
66	54	BOYSENBERRY BUTTERCUP	86	L. Lauer	97	EM	37"	creamy yellow S, lavender F w lt rim
60	56	BEWILDERBEAST	85	B. Kasperek	95	M	30"	mauve streaked silver
55	57	GAY PARASOL	83	Schreiner	74	M	35"	lav. white/rose violet
70	58	EVERYTHING PLUS	82	D. Niswonger	84	M	34"	blue-white & violet plic
54	59	HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS	81	R. Duncan	0	M	32"	deep purple black, white spray
64	59	AFTERNOON DELIGHT	81	R. Ernst	85	M	40"	tan-gold/ maroon
86	59	BOOGIE WOOGIE	81	H. Nichols	93	M-L	36"	white S./E. cloudy. violet
62	62	POND LILY	80	Ev. Jones	95	M	38"	violet blended pink
94	62	HUCKLEBERRY FUDGE	80	J. Gibson	97	M	35"	S brown, F white/ brown plic
	64	TOUR DE FRANCE	79	Keith Keppel	'04	M	35"	white S, chrome yellow F
58	64	ROMANTIC EVENING	79	J. Ghio	96	EL	36"	lilac S, dk red-purple F
70	64	DAZZLING GOLD	79	D.C. Anderson	81	M	29"	yell.veined brown
72	67	RING AROUND ROSIE	78	R. Ernst	'00	M	35"	white sanded purple, yellow rim
58	68	RARE TREAT	77	Schreiner	87	E-M	34"	blue & white plicata
62	68	MYSTIQUE	77	J. Ghio	75	E-L	36"	lt. blue S; dk. blue F
68	68	KITTY KAY	77	K. Keppel	'02	ML	37"	ruffled pink
	71	OREO	76	Keith Keppel	'04	M	31"	elderberry S, white F w. eggplant edge
47	71	BREAKERS	76	Schreiner	86	M	36"	medium blue
79	71	CRACKLING CALDERA	76	J. T.Aitken	'03	ML	33"	S orange, F yellow w orange rim
50	74	TOM JOHNSON	74	P. Black	96	E	35"	dark purple, red orange beards

R2007	R2008	CULTIVAR	VOTES	HYBRIDIZER	YEAR	SEASON	HEIGHT	COLOR
75	74	TIGER HONEY	74	B. Kasperek	94	EM	38"	butterscotch-caramel w/ white & yel. streaks
55	76	SKY HOOKS	73	M. Osborne	80	M	36"	soft yellow; violet horns
79	77	CHASING RAINBOWS	71	B. Hager	98	M	32"	peach S, buff/lavender/blue blend F
50	78	DEVONSHIRE CREAM	70	G. Sutton	99	ML-VL	37"	cream white
64	78	COPPER CLASSIC	70	E. Roderick	75	L	30"	burnt orange
79	78	HEARTSTRING STRUMMER	70	B. Johnson	'01	ML	40"	S wht w lav edges, F med violet, darker edges
86	81	LOCAL COLOR	69	K. Keppel	96	M	40"	dk. violet S, darker F
68	82	MY GINNY	66	D. Spoon	'00	ML	30"	pink, purplish border on F
83	82	CODICIL	66	S. Innerst	85	M-L	32"	lt. blue black beard
86	82	BAYBERRY CANDLE	66	C. DeForest	69	M	36"	chart., gold & olive
61	85	SWINGTOWN	65	Schreiner	96	L	36"	mulberry claret
66	86	UNCLE CHARLIE	64	D. Spoon	97	ML	34"	pale lavender blue
77	86	OWYHEE DESERT	64	L. Pinkston	97	ML	36"	white S; rusty F w white rays, rim
77	88	CAMELOT ROSE	63	C. Tompkins	65	M-L	30"	lilac/burgundy
89	88	BRAZILIAN HOLIDAY	63	Schreiner	97	ML	36"	lavender white S, plum F
91	88	RINGO	63	G. Shoop	79	M	38"	white/grape edge
	88	ITALIAN ICE	63	A & D Cadd	'01	ML	41"	pale yellow S, cream yellow F
89	92	VIENNA WAITZ	62	K. Keppel	'00	M-VL	36"	milky orchid
92	92	PERSIAN BERRY	62	L. Gaultier	77	M	35"	mulberry-lavender
92	92	SPICED TIGER	62	B. Kasperek	96	EM	31"	tan S; mahog F. wh. Streaks
73	95	EPICENTER	60	J. Ghio	94	EM	42"	black cherry S, salmon F. edged black cherry
95	96	BABBLING BROOK	59	K. Keppel	66	M	38"	light blue
	97	BARBARA MY LOVE	56	Maryott	99	M	36"	white with apricot edges
73	98	FANCY WOMAN	54	K. Keppel	95	VE-EM	38"	lilac purple luminata
95	99	AMARILLO FRILLS	52	B. Hager/ Cooleys	'02	EM	37"	Laced yellow self
	99	WHISPERING SPIRITS	52	R. Ernst	'01	ML	35"	violet/white plic. w. gold edges

New to the list: DECADENCE, TOUR DE FRANCE, OREO, ITALIAN ICE, BARBARA MY LOVE, WHISPERING SPIRITS

Runners-up: HABIT (51), MERLOT (50), OKAPI POPPY (50), SOLAR FIRE (50), WINTRY SKY (50), QUEEN IN CALICO (49)

Dropped from the list: QUEEN IN CALICO, GOT MILK, SWEET MUSETTE, CLASSIC LOOK, MIDNIGHT OIL, OCELOT

In Memoriam...

Frank Lerner, Ohio

Elmer Smith, Virginia

Mrs Richard C Butler, Arkansas

Mary Wyss, Missouri

Mina C Chace, California

Brian J Clough, Illinois

Craig Ellyson, Iowa

Joanne McGrew, California

AIS Insurance

Michelle Snyder, Insurance Chair

For those of you who do not already know, our Liability Insurance is now with a new insurance company. If Certificates of Insurance are needed, I have made it much easier to obtain the needed documents.

To obtain Certificates of Insurance go to www.irises.org/insurance.htm and click on the text Request for Certificates of Insurance. Download the form, complete it as necessary, and fax it to the number shown.

As always, if there are any problems associated with obtaining the needed Certificate, or if you have any questions in general regarding insurance, please contact me at either (928) 282-5867, or my email address of sammygiz@aol.com. 

Milestones

Compiled by Jim Morris, Missouri

While attending the AIS Board of Directors meeting in North Carolina I was reminded that another major milestone in 2007 was the 400th year of the founding of Virginia, later to become one of America's original thirteen states. I depend on our members to help me honor or report news of their affiliate club or club members. My address, phone number and email address are always printed under the Standing and Special Committee Chairmen heading in the front of each AIS Bulletin. Please let me hear from you.

"Everybody Dies Famous in a Small Town" is a current country hit song by Miranda Lambert. In the somewhat larger venue of AIS it isn't always the case, so we attempt here to provide short obituaries of some of our members who deserve a little notice.

Ronald James Beattie (April 29, 1924 – July 6, 2007)

Beattie, 83, of Aurora, OR in Region 13, died at St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland, OR following surgery for an aneurysm. Ron was a U.S. Coast Guard veteran and a flower lover. While working in a flower stall at the Farmers Market in Portland, he met Mildred Hulbert. When the Hulbert family bought a local flower shop in 1947, he joined them as a designer and worked there until his retirement in 1989. Together with Bennett Jones, he was a co-founder of the Greater Portland Iris Society on January 24, 1952. He enjoyed growing irises on his small property and from 1956–1992 he hybridized and registered 26 TBs, 2 MDBs, 1 SDB, 1 IB and 1 BB through his Old Colony Garden in Canby, OR, Bennett Jones' Raleigh Hills Gardens and Chet Tompkins' Fleur de Lis Gardens. Keith Keppel said, "He had some fun things ... 'Scandal' (62, BB), 'Scalawag' (57, TB), 'Perique' (60, TB), 'Gavotte' (58, TB), and 'Greenan Castle' (71, TB), come to mind." Ron was awarded four HMs for 2 TBs and 2 MDBs. He had no known relatives. He left behind his former co-workers at the flower shop, Norma Bivens and Bonnie Hulbert Hansen, who had been his caregiver for the past seven years.

Adele S. Lawyer (June 18, 1918 – August 27, 2007)

Lawyer, 89, of Rossmoor, CA in Region 14, died at her home from complications related to her four-year battle with cancer. Adele grew up

in San Francisco, CA, where she loved piano, drama, and riding horses on the beach. A graduate of the University of California-Berkeley, she worked for a graduate student and the love of her life, Lewis Lawyer, whom she married August 13, 1937.

Both Adele and Lewis worked as plant pathologists for Del Monte Corporation for over 40 years. Throughout her Del Monte career, Adele was the only woman scientist in her group. Adele's work included increasing yields and optimizing size of vegetable and fruit crops through plant hybridization, developing seed treatments, and selecting for disease and frost resistance. The Lawyers divided their time between the Agricultural Research Center in San Leandro, CA and summers spent testing varieties in Rochelle, Illinois, where the family enjoyed the small-town life in the Midwest. Adele received numerous academic and industrial awards for her hybridizing work.

For over 50 years, Adele and Lewis lived in the Oakland, CA hills with its view of San Francisco Bay. They hosted many garden tours including an AIS Convention tour in which the attendees off-loaded from the large tour busses onto smaller busses for the trip up the final hill to their garden. After retirement, Lewis and Adele turned their plant breeding profession into a hobby. In addition to breeding clivias and deciduous azaleas, they also bred some TBs and Pacific Coast Native iris. They registered nine CAs with 'Foothill Banner' (90) winning an AM, and 'Sierra Dell' (88) winning the Sydney B. Mitchell Medal in 1995.

The Lawyers were very active in AIS and the various affiliates of Region 14, the North American Rock Garden Society, the UC Botanical Garden, and the California Horticultural Society. Adele and Lewis were active officers and Almanac Editors for the Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris. Adele served for a time as the Scientific Editor of the AIS Bulletin. She and Lewis received the AIS Distinguished Service Medal.

When Lewis died of cancer in 2001, Adele moved to Rossmoor, trading her view of the bay for a view of Mt. Diablo. Adele is survived by her two children, Melanie (Jim Davis) and Artie (Francie). A third child, Lori, preceded her in death. She also is survived by four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; a brother, Abbott Charles (Joyce), and extended family, as well as her caregiver, Del Antonio.

Richard C. "Dick" Sparling (July 20, 1928 – October 2, 2007)

Sparling, 79, of Pomfret Center, CT in Region 1, died at UMass Memorial Hospital in Worcester after a brief illness. Born in Hackensack, NJ, Dick was the husband of the late Meredith (Parsons) Sparling. A

veteran of the Korean War, and graduate of Emerson College and NYU, Richard was employed as a financial analyst for Chase Manhattan for 26 years while residing in Allendale, NJ, where he also served as a Scoutmaster and advisor with the Boy Scouts of America. He later moved to Olney, MD and served as Director of Economic and Financial Affairs for the Independent Petroleum Association of America before his retirement in 1992.

After retirement, his full-time avocation was breeding and showing irises. He registered 7 SDBs, 2 MDBs, 1 SPEC-X (croatica), 1 MTB, 1 BB and 1 TB through his Green Box Garden, Miller's Manor and lastly Winterberry. One AIS HM was awarded in 1991 for 'Allendale' (89, BB). This white iris also was awarded a British Iris Society Award of Merit. He was an AIS Master Judge, a past president of DIS, and maintained both DIS and MIS display gardens for several years. His collection of MTBs in Olney, MD was the largest such collection in the world. He passed most of those (over 300 named varieties) to Dr. Bruce Hornstein and his Sans Souci Nursery in Monkton, MD, when he decided to "cut back." While in Olney he was largely responsible for revitalizing the Chesapeake and Potomac Iris Society in the Washington, D.C. area and served several terms as its president. Dick moved to Pomfret Center in 2000, and at the age of 76, completed the UConn Master Gardener course. His Connecticut garden grew to include more than 2,000 cultivated irises as his hobby was always a passion to him.

He leaves behind a son, Peter, daughter, Debra Sparling Broe, and two grandchildren. He was laid to rest in New Hampshire at his late wife's side.

Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Wyss (December 10, 1924 – March 3, 2007)

Wyss, 82, of Independence, MO in Region 18, passed away at her home following a lengthy illness. Betty was born in Fredonia, KS to Irvin and Louise (Jackson) Shafer. Her companion, Raymond Hogan, her parents, sister, Joann Thompson, son, Eric, and grandson, Johnny Harris, preceded her in death. She is survived by her son, Monty, daughter, Linda (John) Harris, son, Gary (Marilyn), daughter, Carla (Ray) Hickman, and son, Jim (Jody); brother, Bill Shafer, 15 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. Betty was a member of the Greater Kansas City Iris Society and a frequent attendee at Region 18 and AIS Conventions. She hybridized MTB irises, registering four, with 'Rick' (96) receiving an HM in 2000. 

AIS Foundation Donations

Contributions to the American Iris Society Foundation are used for the research of the genus iris, administration of scholarships and the support of the AIS Library through the Evelyn Jones Memorial Library Fund. This research includes the taxonomy as well as the cause of diseases and their cures. Over the years, grants have been issued to the top researchers and educational institutions throughout the world.

September 2007 – December 2007

Contributions in memory of:

Hilda A. Dunaway

Louisville Area Iris Society (KY)

Sara P. Halk

Ernestine P. Williams (GA)

Correction: A donation made by the Tulsa Area Iris Society in memory of Katherine Harris, should have read Dorothy Harris.

How can you make a contribution or memorial gift to the American Iris Society Foundation?

Checks should be made payable to the American Iris Society Foundation. When sending a memorial gift, please include the name and address of the next-of-kin, so an acknowledgement card may be sent. Your tax-deductible donations should be sent to:

The American Iris Society Foundation

Roger P. Mazur Sec./Treas.

815 South 67th Ave.

Omaha, NE 68106-1115

The AIS and the AIS Foundation are independent entities. Donations to both are both tax deductible. The primary difference between these donations is that the AIS spend both the principle and interest of the gift as needed to pursue the specific goal selected by the donor in support of the activities of the Society. The AIS Foundation spends only the interest on the gift and maintains the principle in perpetuity to help accomplish the goals of the Foundation which are to foster and disseminate knowledge and appreciation of the genus Iris.

*Please see the Foundation website at www.aisfoundation.org
for further information.*

Donations to AIS Active Funds

August 15, 2007 – November 15, 2007

compiled by Donna James, Donations Secretary

The AIS Active Funds and the AIS Foundation are independent entities. Donations to both are tax deductible. The AIS spends both the principle and interest of gifts to the Active Funds as needed to pursue the specific goal selected by the donor in support of the activities of the Society.

Memory Of:	Fund Code
Jack Norrick (IN)	
Philip B. Schaffer (OH)	CIP-YF
Hugh Thurman (KY)	
Roger & Lynda Miller	R&S
East Tennessee Iris Society (TN)	Gen
James & Janice Wilson (CT)	GYF
Jimmy Jones (CA)	
San Fernando Valley Iris Society (CA)	GYF
Southern California Iris Society (CA)	CCYA
Jeannette Schreiner (OR)	
Mildred Stover (MN)	Gen
Jerry Murphy (NY)	
Donna James (NY)	GYF
Central New York Iris Society (NY)	GYF
Albert Darst (MO)	
Orville & Luella Dikhaut (IL)	GYF
Adela Lawyer (CA)	
James & Barbara Whitely (CA)	R&S
Bruce Connell (CA)	
MT. Diablo Iris Society (CA)	Gen
Doris DeHann (MI)	
Southwestern Michigan Iris Society (MI)	Gen
Jennie Hopson (CA)	
Southern California Iris Society (CA)	Gen
William Hawkinson (CA)	
Southern California Iris Society (CA)	Gen
Duane Daily (CO)	
Region 20 AIS (CO)	Gen
Clara Honakens (IN)	
Summerville Iris Society (SC)	Gen

Betty Wyss (MO)	
Greater Kansas City Iris Society (MO)	Gen
Leslie Hardy (OK)	
Oklahoma Iris Society (OK)	Gen
Louise Bellagamba (MO)	
Greater ST. Louis Iris Society (MO)	Library
Carol Jarratt (CA)	
Monterey Bay Iris Society (CA)	Gen
Lois Belardi (CA)	
Monterey Bay Iris Society (CA)	Gen
Wilma Millier (OK)	
Tulsa Area Iris Society (OK)	Gen
Richard Sparling (CT)	
Connecticut Iris Society (CT)	Gen
Region 1 AIS (CT)	Gen
David & Barbara Schmieder (MA)	R&S
Sara Holk (GA)	
Carolyn R. Hawkins (GA)	R&S
DEFRAY INSURANCE	FUND CODE
Wichita Area Iris Club (KS)	Insurance
Region 6 AIS (IN)	Insurance
Historical Iris Preservation Society	Insurance

AIS Donation Fund Codes:

CCYA = Clarke Cosgove Youth Award Fund

*CIP-YF = Classroom Iris Project – Youth Fund

G = General Fund

G/I = General Funds Insurance Defrayment

GYF = General Youth Fund

LIB = Library Fund

R&S = Research & Scholarship

*Please note: CIP-FY = Classroom Iris Project-Youth Fund. Due to the generosity of the donors, the Classroom Iris Project Youth Fund is fully subscribed. Please consider making donations to other Youth funds.

How to Make your Donation to One of the AIS Funds

Donations to AIS Fund Accounts should be made payable to: AIS or the American Iris Society.

Mail to Donna James, 887 County Route 3, Hannibal, NY 13074-2356;
(315) 598-3346; ron2don@alltel.net

Clearly identify on a separate piece of paper:

1. The recipient of the memorial or honor.
2. The Fund to which you wish the donation to be credited.
3. The name of person, persons, or organization donation.
4. The address of person(s) to notify that a donation has been made.

AIS Calendar:

2008: April 14-19

Austin, TX

Chairs: Jim Landers

710 North 11th

Temple, TX 76501-3016

(254) 773-5017

jimlanders43@hotmail.com

and: Pat Byrne

(281) 391-6190

patb1@consolidated.net

Headquarters:

Omni Austin Hotel at

Southpark

4140 Governor's Row

Austin, TX 78744

(512) 383-2621

2009: May 11-16

Kansas City, MO

Chair: Debora Hughes

3395 Utah Road

Wellsville, KS 66092

(785) 883-4737

dhughes936@myvine.com

Headquarters:

Doubletree Hotel Overland Park

10100 College Boulevard

Overland Park, KS 66210

(913) 451-6100

2010: May/June

Madison, WI

Chairman: John Baker

4601 CTH TT

Sun Prairie, WI 53590

(608) 825-7423

FALL BOARD MEETINGS

2007: Nov 2-4

Raleigh-Durham, NC

Chair: Susan Grigg

105 Trotters Ridge Road

Raleigh, NC 27614

(919) 870-8345

irismom@nc.rr.com

Headquarters:

Wyndham Raleigh Durham

Research Triangle Park

4620 S. Miami Blvd.

Durham, NC 27703

(919) 941-6066

2008: Oct 31 – Nov 2

Las Vegas, NV

Chair: Mary lee Fortner

3337 Ascona Street

Lass Vegas, NV 89129

(702) 228-0827

mybasket@cox.net

2009: Nov 6 - 8

Tulsa, OK

Chair: Paul W. Gossett

129 East 33rd Place

Tulsa, OK 74105-2542

(918) 742-1204

pwgossett@juno.com

2010:

Portland, OR 

Statement of Ownership

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
Publication Title AMERICAN INDIAN SOCIETY **Publication Number** 12-3-2007 **Filing Date** 12-3-2007

1. Publication Title AMERICAN INDIAN SOCIETY **2. Publication Number** 12-3-2007 **3. Filing Date** 12-3-2007

4. Issue Frequency QUARTERLY **5. Number of Issues Published Annually** 4 **6. Annual Subscription Price** \$ 25.00

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state and ZIP+4®)
10606 TIMBER RIDGE ST.
DUBUQUE, IA 52001-8268
Contact Person THOMAS GORMLEY
Telephone (include area code) 563-513-0504

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)
115 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
10606 TIMBER RIDGE ST.
DUBUQUE, IA 52001-8268
AMERICAN INDIAN SOCIETY
10606 TIMBER RIDGE ST.
DUBUQUE, IA 52001-8268
Editor (Name and complete mailing address) N/A

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)
N/A
TERREY MITCHELL
618 N. 119th ST.
WASHTON, WA 98085-3802

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of all individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address, as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a government organization, give its name and address.)
Full Name AMERICAN INDIAN SOCIETY **Complete Mailing Address** 10606 TIMBER RIDGE ST. DUBUQUE, IA 52001-8268

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box
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12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
☒ The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
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☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

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13. Publication Title BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN SOCIETY **14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below** October, 2007

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions, Started on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		4,850	4,150
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions, Started on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		4,654	4,436
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails (Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, and Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®)		0	0
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®)		0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b(1), (2), (3), and (4))		4,654	4,436
d. Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		0	0
e. Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		0	0
f. Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®) (By Mail)		0	0
g. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		0	0
h. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15e(1), (2), (3) and (4))		50	50
i. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15h)		4,704	4,486
j. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publication #4 (page 43))		146	264
k. Total (Sum of 15i and j)		4,850	4,750
l. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15i times 100)		98.94 %	98.89 %

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership
☒ If this publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the JANUARY 2008 issue of this publication. ☐ Publication not required.

17. Signature of Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Thomas Gormley **Date** 12-3-2007

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Treasurer's Report

For the Year Ended September 30, 2007

Assets and Restricted/Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted Cash, Money Market Funds, and Certificates of Deposit	\$113,731.00
Restricted Life Membership Investments	<u>\$166,408.00</u>
Total Assets	\$280,139.00

Restricted Funds:

General Youth Fund	\$894.00
Insurance Fund	\$5,450.00
Electronic Services Fund	\$18,358.00
Publication Fund	\$150.00
Cosgrove Memorial Youth Fund	\$7,836.00
AIS Library Fund	\$4,209.00
Scientific & Scholarship Fund	\$4,210.00
Classroom Iris Project (CIP) Fund	\$4,186.00
Life Membership Dues Fund	<u>\$137,069.00</u>

Total Restricted Funds	\$182,362.00
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>\$97,777.00</u>
Total Restricted and Unrestricted Funds	\$280,139.00

Beginning Assets & Fund Balances 9-30-06	\$276,573.00
Excess of Income over Expenses (Unrestricted and Restricted Funds)	<u>\$3,566.00</u>
Ending Assets & Fund Balances 9-30-07	\$280,139.00

Income and Expenses

Unrestricted Fund Income:	
Affiliate Fees	\$1,900.00
Bulletin Advertising	\$12,497.00
Committee Income	\$9,788.00
Earned Interest Income/Dividends	\$7,530.00
Membership Dues Income	\$80,515.00
Registration Fees	\$6,350.00
Silent Auction	\$5,190.00
Storefront Sales	\$33,462.00
Surplus Bulletins	\$140.00
Unrestricted Donations	\$2,320.00
Gain on Sale of CD	<u>\$310.00</u>
Unrestricted Fund Income:	\$160,002.00

Unrestricted Fund Expenses:

Bank Fees	\$78.00
Bulletin Expenses	\$73,307.00
Committee Expenses	\$21,058.00
General Secretary Expense	\$117.00
Insurance Expense	\$9,941.00
Membership Expenses	\$19,777.00
PayPal Account	\$322.00
Photo Contest	\$291.00
Professional Fees	\$340.00
Recording Secretary Expense	\$20.00
Registrar/Recorder Expense	\$6,331.00
Silent Auction Expense	\$555.00
Storefront Expenses	\$39,362.00
Treasurer Expense	\$85.00
Unrestricted Fund Expenses	\$171,584.00
Excess Unrestricted Expenses over Income	-\$11,582.00

Restricted Fund Income:

General Youth Fund	\$334.00
Insurance Fund	\$5,450.00
Electronic Services Fund	\$4,577.00
Cosgrove Memorial Youth Fund	\$700.00
AIS Library Fund	\$3,115.00
Scientific & Scholarship Fund	\$4,210.00
Classroom Iris Project (CIP) Fund	\$700.00
Life Member Dues Fund	<u>\$1,990.00</u>
Restricted Fund Income	\$21,076.00

Restricted Fund Expenses:

Clair Barr Library Fund	\$1,695.00
Electronic Services Fund	\$1,923.00
Cosgrove Memorial Youth Fund	\$545.00
AIS Library Fund	\$1,376.00
Life Membership Dues Fund	<u>\$389.00</u>
Restricted Fund Expenses:	\$5,928.00
Excess Restricted Fund Income over Expenses	\$15,148.00

Excess Unrestricted Expenses over Income	-\$11,582.00
Excess Restricted Fund Income over Expenses	<u>\$15,148.00</u>
Total Unrestricted and Restricted Fund	
Excess Income over Expenses	\$3,566.00

Please direct all questions to Jill Bonino, Treasurer at aistreas@earthlink.net.

AIS Board Minutes Digest

Raleigh, North Carolina, November 2 & 3, 2007

President Jeanne Plank called to order the Fall Meeting of the AIS Board of Directors at 7:07 pm on Friday, November 2, 2007, and announced a quorum was present. A listing of attendees is included with the full minutes.

- President Plank announced that AIS Secretary, Patricia Randall was unable to attend this meeting. Randall had tendered her resignation as of the adjournment of this meeting and Michelle Snyder had been designated Secretary-elect at the Spring Board meeting. Plank requested that the Board affirm the action taken at the Spring meeting and elect Michelle Snyder to the position of General Secretary. The board approved.
- President Plank announced that as the AIS General Secretary did not receive any additional nominations to the Board of Directors, the four published nominees (Paul Gossett, Bob Keup, Jim Morris, and Bob Pries) were elected by acclamation.

The Digest Minutes printed in the October 2007 AIS Bulletin (#347, page 68), and the Full minutes as published on the AIS Website for the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma meeting were approved after the clerical errors were corrected. A full listing of the errors corrected can be found in the full minutes.

Action taken as follows:

- That Gerry Snyder serve as temporary Motion Monitor pending the arrival of John Jones, whose flight was delayed.
- That the AIS accept the request from the Society of Louisiana Irises to move from Cooperating Society to AIS Section.

Interim email action affirmed:

- That the AIS follow the recommendation of the Scientific Committee and fund the Andrew Wheeler Grant Proposal.

Reports:

General Secretary: Michelle Snyder stated that her computer does not have Adobe Acrobat, a software application necessary for editing, re-formatting, and transmitting Board members reports to Electronic Services for posting to the Board Reports Internet page. The board approved:

- That Secretary Snyder be authorized to purchase Adobe Acrobat for a reasonable price.

Treasurer: Jill Bonino reported that Bob May from Hartford Insurance conducted an audit for the AIS's General Liability coverage. Bonino also reported

receiving a notice from the IRS stating: "That beginning in 2008, small tax exempt organizations that previously were not required to file returns, may be required to submit an annual electronic notice". This new requirement would apply to all AIS affiliates, sections, and regions that have their own federal tax ID number that don't file a form 990 because they are too small. She will forward more information when it becomes available. Bonino reminded the Board that if she should become incapacitated, there needs to be a backup. The board approved:

- That Cheryl Deaton be given authority to sign bank transactions in case Treasurer Jill Bonino is incapacitated.

Bulletin: Managing Editor Terry Aitken reported the slide scanner which is used for the bulletin, needs to be replaced. He also requested the board revisit the compensation for Guest Editors. The board approved the following motions:

- That Managing Editor Aitken be authorized to purchase a slide scanner and the software upgrade for a price not to exceed \$350.
- That Guest Editors be compensated at \$1,000 per issue and the Managing Editor at \$500 per issue retroactively.
- That a Guest Editor, if also a Director, be able to accept compensation without losing the right to vote.

Membership Secretary: Tom Gormley's report stated the continued gradual drop in membership.

Recording Secretary: Susan Boyce reported a two month delay in the minutes being posted on the internet after they were submitted. She will in the future email the minutes to those who need them as soon as they are completed.

Registrar/Recorder: Mike Lowe's report requested the Board set a number of R&I's to be printed for 2007. The board approved:

- That we print 500, 2007 R&Is.

Publication/Sales: John Ludi reported that an excessive number of old bulletins are still in stock at the storefront.

Affiliates: Brad Kasperek was not in attendance. President Plank restated a strong need for an affiliates handbook.

Awards: Roy Epperson noted that there is only one Wister Medal left in stock, and there is an immediate need to cast more. The board approved:

- That the AIS cast 36 Wister Medals.

Calendars: Terry Aitken recommended that we order 2000 copies of the 2009 calendar. The board approved:

- That we produce 2000, 2009 calendars.

Convention: Paul Gossett stated that he is still looking for a site to host the 2011 convention. He also reported Region 15 had extended an invitation to host the 2012 convention in Ontario, California. The Board approved:

- That the AIS accept the invitation of Region 15 to host the 2012 National Convention.

Donations: Donna James reported about the continued confusion about the distinction between the AIS and the AIS foundation, and how to donate

to one versus the other. It was recommended that it be clarified on the AIS Website and in the AIS Bulletin.

Honorary Awards: President Plank announced the results of the Honorary Awards.

The Hybridizers Medals were awarded to: Robert Bauer & John Coble (Region 6), and Marty Schafer & Jan Sacks (Region 1).

The Distinguished Service Medal was awarded to Jeanne Clay Plank (Region 15).

The Bee Warburton Medal was awarded to Sidney Linnegar (Great Britain).

Electronic Services: John Jones reported there are 229 subscribers to the online checklist database and the paypal membership payment option continues to work well. He also recommended changes to the AIS Website and services. The board approved the following motions:

- That we change ISP's to Lunar Pages.
- a That we approve a maximum budget of \$8,000 to redesign the website, \$3,000 to come from the General fund and \$5,000 to come from the Electronic Services Restricted fund.
- That the AIS Treasurer investigate the ramifications of obtaining a corporate credit card.

Exhibitions: Jim & Janet Giles sent in a report of the results of the 2007 AIS iris shows.

Foundation Liaison: Roger Mazur was not in attendance, but Bob Plank gave an updated report of the DuBose estate.

Handbook Revision Committee: Roy Epperson noted that the Operations Manual is finished with the exception of the Photo Contest, RVP Representative, and the RVP counselor job description. Epperson stated that he and Judges Chair Keisling have received numerous complaints about the two new judges designations. The board approved the following motions:

- That we return to the Master (M) designation and drop the Senior designation.
- That we return to the Emeritus (E) designation and drop the Master designation from that position.

Insurance: Michelle Snyder stated that the insurance premium renewal rate was very similar to last years total.

Judges: Judy Keisling presented the recommended Judges list for 2008. She also reported on a recommendation for a judgeship for an overseas member. The board approved the following motions:

- That the list of recommended judges for 2008 as corrected be approved.
- That Zdenek Seidl be approved as an Overseas (OS) Judge for 2008.
- That no change in the present status of Retired Judges be made.

Library: Tracy Plotner was not in attendance and did not submit a report.

Non-Profit Incorporation Tax Exempt Status 501 (c)(3): Bob Plank had no additional information to report.

Photo Contest: Kitty Loberg sent in a report on the 2007 AIS Photo

Contest. The board approved:

- That Kitty Loberg be approved to conduct the 2008 Photo Contest.

Policy & Historical Resources: Mike & Anne Lowe were not in attendance. On Policy, President Plank will work with Jones on simplifying the searches for Board Motions for future referencing.

Programs: Digital, Slides, & Speakers: Avery Poling reported on the Slide Program and tendered his resignation. Joyce Poling reported on the growth of the Speakers list.

RVP Counselor: Louise Carson presented the list of proposed RVPs for the upcoming year, and the board approved:

- That the list of proposed RVPs for 2008 be accepted.

RVP Counselor: Jerry Coates stated that the one year term held by the RVP Representative might not be long enough.

Silent Auction: Rita Gormley was not in attendance, but President Plank stated the need to approve the Silent Auction for 2008. The board approved:

- That we continue the Silent Auction in 2008.

Symposium: Gerry Snyder reported on the 2007 Symposium. He also reported on an error of omission of four irises from this year's Symposium. He requested input from the Board on how to compensate for this omission. The board approved:

- That we place the following irises on the 2008 Symposium ballot for three years: Dorothy Devenport, Peaches and Dreams, Peppermint Cream, and Tropical Delight.

Public Relations: Bob Pries reported on various new ways to attract new members. After an extensive discussion, the board approved the following motions:

- That we experiment with advertising land pads on the AIS Website for one year.
- That a Public Exhibits Toolbox be developed and incorporated into the AIS Website by February 2008.
- That the AIS adopt in principle, the concept of a yearly coffee table magazine to be published in January for all members and provided to new members as they join during the year. This would have no data or administrative information but be a pleasurable color magazine that would begin preparation at least a year prior to printing and be bid separately from the AIS Bulletin.
- That the AIS investigate a photo wiki for AIS members on the members only section of the AIS Website.

Publications: Maureen Mark reported on the continuing work of three new publications. She also reported on the status of the ISBN numbers that the AIS has. The board approved:

- That the AIS General Secretary (primary keeper), Publications Chair, and the AIS President be designated as the managers of the American Iris Society ISBN log book.

Scientific Advisory Committee: Gary White reported that Dr. Alan Meerow's research is finished and has sent in his report.

Section Liaison: Jim Morris reported on his AIS Bulletin articles.

Youth: Cheryl Deaton reported on donations for the youth. The board approved the following motions:

- That we create a new fund YCCR (Youth Cosgrove Convention Registration) to pay for convention registration fees of Cosgrove winners.
- That we increase the Clarke Cosgrove Youth Award (CCYA) award winners' amounts to: Winner \$500, First Runner-up \$300, and Second Runner-up \$200.
- That we mark the CIP-YF as "Due to the generosity of the donors, the Classroom Iris Project Youth Fund is fully subscribed" and add a recommendation that donations be made to other youth funds.

Treasurer: Jill Bonino reviewed the Proposed Budget for the fiscal year 2007-2008 with changes that had been added and subtracted as they came up during discussion throughout the meeting. A balanced budget could not be reached. The board approved:

- That we accept a budget that has an estimated excess of expenditures over income of \$753.00 for the FY ending 9/30/2008.

Election of Officers: It was moved and seconded: That the Board affirm the election of Dr. E. Roy Epperson as AIS President. Motion carried. Incoming President Epperson accepted the gavel from outgoing President Plank.

Nominations were opened for the remaining elected offices. Upon receiving no additional nominations from the floor, nominations were closed and the following slate of officers were elected by acclamation.

First Vice President: Judy Keisling

Second Vice President: Jill Bonino

Secretary: Michelle Snyder

Treasurer: Jill Bonino

Editor: open

The appointments of Administrative Officers resulted in no changes.

The appointments to Standing Committee Chairs can be found at the front of this Bulletin under the heading "Chairs of Standing Committees". The 2008 appointment list will be printed in the full minutes for this meeting, available on the website, or obtained by contacting the AIS General Secretary's office.

Meeting dates for the 2008 Convention in Austin, Texas, were announced.

President Epperson thanked Susan & Glenn Grigg and their committee for being our host at this fall meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm on Saturday, November 3, 2007.

AIS SLIDE RENTALS AND DIGITAL PROGRAMS

The American Iris Society Slide Set And Digital Programs

A picture is worth a thousand words. For an interesting and educational meeting, an AIS slide set may provide the atmosphere you desire and stimulate your chapter's interest in all types of irises. AIS Affiliate Chapters are entitled to one free set per year.

To Order: Requests for specific slide sets should be made well in advance, preferably four to six weeks. Please request alternate choices.

Clearly print your name, address, phone number, and date of meeting if you mail your request by regular mail. If you have an emergency situation and need slides immediately: **CALL ME!**

Only one set is allowed per request date. Slides are to be returned by Priority Mail the day after viewing.

The following programs are available for rent (\$10), payable to AIS, and mailed to the address below.

Irises of 1980s, 1990, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003

Bearded Irises

Beardless Irises

AIS National Conventions of: 2001, 2002, 2003

The Iris Family

Trivia

Iris Trivia (Not available on CD): This is a small set with questions that can be used for fun and informative meetings. It takes about an hour (per set average), using the slides, asking the questions and getting audience response. E-mail for further details.

The Family Iris (Available as Slide Program or CD): This set is an introduction to the world of iris. It shows the different classes of bearded iris and the different species of iris. It can be used for all levels of viewers, new to experienced iris growers. Great for garden club programs.

The following programs are available for purchase (\$10) in CD form:

New Introductions for: 2005, 2006

To rent slide sets or to purchase CDs, contact:

Janet Smith, PO Box 1585, Coarsegold, CA 93614-1585
(559) 683-0447 (Home and FAX line)

<AISSlides@irises.org>

NOTE: If you have suggestions for new iris programs or have a great presentation on irises you would like to share with others, please contact me and we'll see about incorporating it into the AIS Slides Program!

AIS Storefront

Sale Items & Publications

The World of Irises

Highly recommended! 32 pages of full color. Edited by Warburton and Hamblen, 34 contributors and authors including international authorities. Published in 1978 and most authoritative book on all phases of irises. Scientific and popular. 6" x 9" hard bound cloth cover, 494 pages. \$15.00
Quantity discounts: 20% off for 10 or more / 40% off for 100 or more

Handbook for Judges and Show Officials

New release! Seventh Edition ©2007. Insert (new pages) \$12.00.
Insert w/cover \$15.00

Basic Iris Culture. Booklets. Great information for new iris growers. Ideal for clubs or shows. \$1.50 ea., or 25 for \$15.00 domestic/\$20.00 overseas

Convention Handbook. Free

AIS Bulletins: Back Issues

AIS *Bulletins* (current year and last year): \$5.00 each domestic/\$6.50 each overseas
Older issues (not all available): \$2.00 each domestic/\$4.50 each overseas

Check Lists: 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969, & 1979.

Reprint. Soft cover. \$14.00 ea. domestic/\$20.00 ea. overseas

Check Lists: 1989 or 1999

Hard cover. Ten-year compilation of registrations.

\$17.00 ea. domestic/\$25.00 ea. overseas

Registrations and Introductions: 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006.

\$10.00 ea. domestic/\$14.00 ea. overseas

Discount Specials:

Seven 10-Year Checklists, 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, AND 1999.

ALL for \$75.00 domestic/\$86.00 international.

Current Registration & Introductions, years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005 – ALL for \$45.00 domestic/\$55.00 international.

Registrations and Introductions:

Years 1984, 1985, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2007.

Clearance Sale: \$2.00 each!

75th Anniversary Commemorative Medal

Solid Silver, 1½ inches across. Only 500 struck. \$25.00

75th Anniversary Bulletin. \$2.00 domestic/\$4.50 overseas

Bronze 50th Anniversary Medals

The AIS 50th Anniversary medal in antiqued bronze. Suitable for pendants, show prizes, and special awards. \$2.50

AIS Seals (50 per pack)

Self-adhesive ovals are larger than a half dollar. Official design in blue and green on silver background. \$2.50, 1 pack; \$10.00, 5 packs

2008 Iris Calendar

\$6.00 each, or package of 10 for \$33.00 domestic/\$40.00 international

Iris Post Cards (16 per pack)

\$2.00, 1 pack \$5.00, 3 packs \$15.00, 10 packs

RVP Pins \$32 (outgoing RVPs only)

Publications now available through the AIS Storefront:

The Louisiana Iris, The Taming of a Native American Wildflower, Second Edition, \$30.00 (includes S&H).

The Eric Nies Chronicle, \$25 domestic/\$32 international

New Publications:

Year 2007 Registrations and Introductions

\$10.00 each domestic/\$14.00 each international (available February/March 2007)

2008 Iris Calendar

\$6.00 each, or package of 10 for \$33.00 domestic/ \$40.00 international.

View Before You Buy! The official AIS Website now has photos of several of the Storefront sales items, so you can see what they look like.
Go to: www.irises.org

AIS can now accept VISA & Mastercard (sorry, no other charge cards) for Storefront orders (minimum order: \$10.00). When charging your order, please include card type and number, expiration date and phone number.

Prices include postage and handling. The Storefront ships via media mail. Priority, overnight and UPS shipment charges paid by customer. Make checks payable to The American Iris Society, or include charge card information. Send order to: John and Kay Ludi
P.O. Box 956, Sandy, OR 97055; (503) 826-8808; <AISStore@irises.org>

SECTION SLIDES AVAILABLE:

The various Sections of AIS also have slide sets available for rent. These feature irises of each respective group. Requests for these slide sets should be submitted as follows:

Arils and Arilbreds: Order from Scott Jordan, 3500 Avenida Charada NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107. Rental fee \$7.50. Check to Aril Society International.

Dwarf: Dorothy Willott, 26231 Shaker Boulevard, Beachwood, OH 44122-7111. Check for \$7.50 to Dwarf Iris Society.

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS): Contact Ron James, 887 County Route 3, Hannibal, NY 13074; <ron2don@alltel.net> Rental fee \$10.00. Check to HIPS.

Japanese: Order from John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053. Check for \$5.00 to Society for Japanese Irises.

Louisiana: Donna Wolford, 2605 Oakhaven Street, Palm Bay, FL 32905; (321) 724-1676; <n8kxp@cfl.rr.com>; \$10 check to SLI.

Medians: Contact Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119th St, Vancouver WA 98685. Check for \$5.00 to Median Iris Society (MIS). One set free per year to affiliates.

Pacific Coast Native: Contact Damon Hill, 4613 Maddock Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472-9768. Rental fee \$7.50 to SPCNI. 2 sets available, species or hybrids.

Pacific Coast Native Irises: Contact Terri Hudson, 33450 Little Valley Road, Fort Bragg, CA 95437; <irishud@earthlink.net>. Rental fee \$7.50 to SPCNI. Two sets available, species or hybrids.

Rebloomers: Contact George Sutton, 16592 Road 208, Porterville, CA 93257; <info@suttoniris.com>. Check to Reblooming Iris Society. Rental fee is \$7.50.

Siberians: Order from Robert Hollingworth, 124 Sherwood Rd E, Williamston, MI 48895. Check for \$10.00 to Society for Siberian Irises.

Species: Several sets available. Order from Mike Zuraw, 1 Pondview Drive, Bethel, CT 06801-1266; <mjzuraw@aol.com>. Check for \$10.00 to SIGNA.

Spurias: To order, contact Riley Probst, 418 N. Van Buren, Saint Louis, MO 63122; (314) 822-2485; <rprobst02@earthlink.net>. Check for \$10.00 to Spuria Iris Society.

AIS Bulletin Back Issues

two years or older; not all issues available

\$10.00 25 *Bulletins* \$15.00 50 *Bulletins*

Ideal to hand out at shows, sales and other activities. Our choice of issues, depending on availability; shipped in packs of 5 or 10. Price includes postage and handling. Make check payable to American Iris Society. Order this special offer separately from regular Storefront orders, directly from:

John & Kay Ludi P.O. Box 956, Sandy, OR 97055
(503) 826-8808 <aisstore@irises.org>

AIS Bulletin Ad Rates

"Without advertising, a terrible thing happens... nothing!"

Ad Submission Requirements

To place an ad, please contact the advertising editor. All ads must have a hard copy submitted to the advertising editor. List of specifications regarding digital submissions is available. We can not accept MS Publisher or WordPerfect files, as we do not have software to open them. Payment is due with ad copy. The deadlines for ad submissions are as follows: August 15 (October issue); November 15 (January issue), February 15 (April issue), May 15 (July issue). Send ad and payment (payable to AIS) to: George Sutton.

Shopping Section

Found in the back of each Bulletin. Placement is roughly alphabetical. Rate is for 4 issues. All ads are 2½ inch wide.

\$44.00	1½ inch
\$60.00	1 1½ inch
\$80.00	2 1½ inch

Display Advertising

Black & White:

\$35.00	1 inch	4¼ x 1
\$60.00	¼ page	4¾ x 1¾ (wide), or 2½ x 3¾ (tall)
\$90.00	½ page	4¾ x 3¾ (wide), or 2½ x 7½ (tall)
\$160.00	Full page	4¾ x 7½

Color:

\$120.00	½ page, interior page.
\$200.00	Full page, interior page.
\$175.00 each	Full page, interior page, 4 consecutive issue discount.
\$300.00	Full page, inside back cover.
\$300.00	Full page, inside front cover.
\$400.00	Full page, outside back cover.

Note new display advertising rates! January 2008, rates were rolled back to those in effect as of the July 2004 Bulletin. Contact George & Margaret Sutton, 16592 Road 208, Porterville, CA 93257; (559) 784-5107; <AISAdvertising@irises.org>

Bulletin of the AIS Shopping Section

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Visitors Welcome by Appointment
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Contact Information

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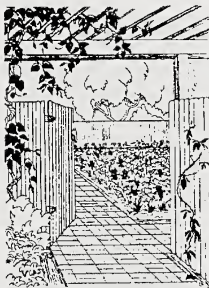
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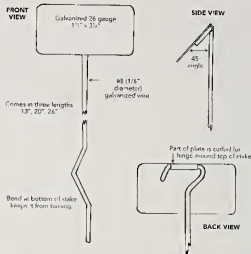
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'Aichi No Kagayaki', see article, page 42

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APR 24 2008

Volume LXXXIX, No. 2

Series No. 349

April 2008

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The *Bulletin of the American Iris Society* is published quarterly by The American Iris Society. Publishing Office, 10606 Timber Ridge Street, Dubuque, IA 52001-8268. Periodical postage paid at Dubuque, IA, and at additional mailing offices. Subscription price is included in membership dues. All copy due in Editor's office by Nov. 15 (Jan.), Feb. 15 (April), May 15 (July), Aug 15 (October). This Bulletin was printed by Bridgetown Printing. Copyright © 2008 The American Iris Society.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Bulletin of the American Iris Society, 10606 Timber Ridge Street, Dubuque, IA 52001-8268

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May be paid by check, VISA, or Mastercard. Overseas memberships include bulk air mail to country of destination followed by first class postage within the country, and is payable in U.S. currency.

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The American Iris Society

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THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY IS A NONPROFIT INSTITUTION INCORPORATED

February 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the Iris.

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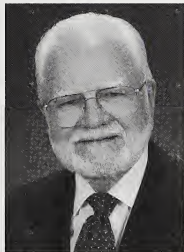
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President's Message

By E. Roy Epperson, North Carolina

The Bylaws of AIS automatically provide for back-up for the elected officers. This redundancy is needed throughout the administrative structure, not just for the elected officers. Past president Jeanne Clay Plank has been advocating designated back-up persons for all of the major positions of AIS. Much progress has been made. More has been recently made due to my hospitalization. We are now in a more stable reporting relationship than previously. My sincere appreciation to Judy Keisling, Jill Bonino, and Michelle Snyder for their dedication to the on-going processes of AIS.



There are 29 **Standing and Special Committee Chairs** listed on page 4 of the *Bulletin*. The majority of these appointments are one-person committees. Therefore, there are inadequate back-up persons for these many areas. I would urge each Committee Chair to generate a small support committee, and notify the AIS President and the AIS Secretary of these committee persons with full contact information.

Welcome to Kate Brewitt as RVP of Region 16.

My sincere appreciation to each of you for the many, many cards e-mails, and messages of concern and support that you have provided to me and my family during this unexpected period of surgery and extended hospitalization. Your continuing prayers have sustained me.

I look forward to participating with you in all of the activities and garden tours on the upcoming National Convention in Austin, TX. 🌸

Correction to Judge's List in January Bulletin

AIS Judges' Training Chair Judy Keisling reports that four new apprentices in Region 13 were inadvertently left off the list of Approved AIS Judges for 2008 in the January bulletin. They are Heidi Hooper, Robert Karr, Carol Richmond, and Linda Stirling.

Guest Editor's Message

By Kelly D. Norris, Iowa

Francis Bacon wrote of gardening that "it is the purest of human pleasures" and "the greatest refreshment to the spirits of man, without which buildings and palaces are but gross handyworks." It is also with great pleasure and refreshment that I return to the helm of the Bulletin for the April 2008 issue. Your responses, both written and verbal, to the last issue I edited reminded me of the kindness and generosity of irisarians. You drive me to continue.



We know as gardeners what many take for granted: change is a moving participle of life, especially in the garden. Change results in the advent of new ideas, the retirement of old ones, and the ever necessary charge of energy to move us in new directions. A new direction that I'm initiating with this issue is an editorial series called "The Other Irids", an investigation of other garden-worthy members of the iris family (*Iridaceae*). As irisarians it is easy to get caught up in the joyous new introductions of traditional bearded and beardless irises while unintentionally disregarding their meritorious cousins. Other irids that we hope to profile include the blue-eyed grasses (*Sisyrinchium*), montbretia (*Crocasmia*), shell flowers (*Tigridia*) and other South American irids, and the candy and blackberry lilies (formerly *xPardancanda* and *Belamcanda*, but recently moved back into *Iris*). The first of the series will start this month with Bob Pries' profile of the subgenus *Scorpiris*, members of which we know colloquially as junio irises. If we've missed a genus you'd like to see covered, consider contributing an essay for a future issue.

Another editorial prerogative worth noting this month is our continuing commitment to international diversity. Our society serves as a beacon of leadership across the world for those who enjoy the company and wise counsel of other irisarians. But the successes of our efforts as a society are only as relevant as the successes of the organizations which we affiliate ourselves with. We often say that people are the sustaining lifeblood of organizations when we really mean that people's passions are what sustain organizations. This is most certainly an international commonality.

You'll thus anticipate my delight when I received a contribution from Izidor Golob by way of Anna Cadd, a tireless correspondent on the international iris scene. Izidor's insights into iris cultivation in Slovenia are blended with his own tale of becoming a noted irisarian. Articles such as this have a number of benefits, chief in my mind being the contemporary anthologies they document. As a garden historian I know all too well of the lack of attention we tend to pay to the events of present-day. We live in modern history which someday some future version of Jim Morris or Rita Gormley will be keenly interested in when they go to compile the 100th anniversary edition of the *Medianite* or other sectional publication. As much as we seek to know more, sometimes the most enjoyable articles are those that tell us more about the toils of the people around us. I'd imagine we all have stories to share, enough to easily fill many pages of future bulletins. Consider it a subtle hint.

I'll always contend that the primal instinct which drives us as gardeners is passion. Bacon noted it in as many words in 1625. The sustenance of our passion is the plethora of venues we're allowed to showcase it in. The iris family is one of the most botanically curious groups of organisms known to science, by no humble estimate. Among our ranks include specialists in groups from miniature dwarfs to Siberians to reticulatas. A niche for everyone indeed! A gracious letter from Jean Witt after she received the October *Bulletin* conveyed her appreciation for the diversity of irises featured in that issue's editorial, remarking that much potential still remains. An op-ed style piece submitted by Michigan member Brock Heilman also attests to the uncharted potential of our favorite genus and the standards of creation we ought to prescribe to.

Though speaking in the horticultural sense, Jean's words ring true to the opportunity that exists with the publication in your hands. The American Iris Society's *Bulletin* is an epitaph of an enduring commitment to spread the word about the joys of iris growing, and why we're all having a gala time at it. The standards you set define the quality of content which I as an editor am charged to present you with. Join me in holding this great society's course steady on its ascent towards new opportunities in irises and irisarians. 

www.theirisfarm.com

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The Rumor Factory?

By Terry Aitken, Washington

There is a pretty fair chance that there will be a future AIS National Convention in Victoria, British Columbia. For those of you who are convention addicts, might I suggest that you check your passport renewal date or get one? There may be other options like tamper proof drivers licenses. The US government will let you leave the country but they won't let you back in without one.

Brace yourselves for the incredible beauty and gentle climate of the Pacific Northwest cloaked in iris blossoms.

Stay tuned for further information.

Youth Views

By Cheryl Deaton, California

I've been noticing quite a few interesting weeds in my garden that I have never seen before. Could it be the result of the Santa Ana winds that swept the seeds from the fire areas that devastated southern California last October? I think that is a definite possibility. Why do weeds grow better than any other plant in our garden? My current crop of weeds is doing just splendidly, thank you!

Just like weeds, our youth members grow in our gardens, but unlike weeds, they need a bit more encouragement. I hope most of you will encourage a youth to grow iris in their gardens, either by becoming their mentor, sharing rhizomes, inviting them to a meeting, or sponsoring their membership in AIS. These young people will grow to become the next generation of the American Iris Society. Isn't it worth a little bit of your time? You bet it is!

Winners Announced

It is with great pleasure that I announce the winners of the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement. In first place is 14 year old Gabriel Lockhart of Region 18. A member of SEMO Iris Society, Gabe has been growing irises for nine years and was described by the adults nominating him as "cheerful", "enthusiastic" and "always willing to help". First runner-up is 17 year old Allison Grzeskowiak, a member of the Washington Iris Club and Region 18. "Award winning", "good student" and "knowledgeable about their irises" were just a few of the adjectives used by her nominators. Second runner-up is 15 year old Sean Pennington of Region 18. A member of the Washington Iris Club, he has grown iris for over 5 years. "Loves working with plants", "award winning", and "enthusiastic" were just some of the things the adults mentioned about this youth member. All the nominees had these qualities and more in common, which makes it so difficult for the judges. The awards will be presented on Saturday, April 19th in Austin, Texas at the AIS convention banquet. Congratulations to the winners and all the youth members who were nominated!! You are the future of the American Iris Society, and I hope to meet each and every one of you someday.

Unfortunately at press time, the Ackerman Essay Contest winners had not been decided. This annual contest is conducted by the AIS Foundation. The winners will also be announced at the AIS banquet in Austin, and I will publish the winning entries in the July issue of the *Bulletin*.

Classroom Iris Projects

In many ways "Classroom Iris Project" is a misnomer. At this time all CIPs are actually in classrooms, but this has not always been the case. Scout troops, 4-H groups and others have been a "CIP" in the past. There is a CIP in Region 7, Region 13, and Region 18. One is at an elementary school, one is at a high school, and one is with home-schooled children of all ages. This shows how versatile a CIP can be. It can even be a group of youth members from your own club that you meet with every month. If you know of a group that would benefit from all the educational material and activities that make up a CIP, contact me and we'll get you started.

Active Youth

Youth members entered shows in 14 regions during 2007, in Horticulture, Artistic Design and Educational categories. A total of 49 youth members won top honors in the youth divisions. Congratulations to all who had the courage to enter a show.

Please visit the youth website at www.youth-iris.com and send me any questions, suggestions, pictures and articles about the youth members in your club and the activities they participate in. 

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Milestones

Compiled by Jim Morris, Missouri

It is always of interest to me to look back in history when compiling this column. 1908 was a leap year just as is 2008. Physicist Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937) had “invented” wireless telegraphy and was working diligently to perfect it; and *Hampton's Magazine* predicted in 1908 that, “When the expectations of wireless experts are realized everyone will have his own pocket telephone and may be called wherever he happens to be.” Cell phones were predicted 100 years ago! But it took Chester Gould and Dick Tracy to come up with pictures.

DNA Barcoding, a Taxonomic Revolution or Crackpot Science?

Not too far from our friend Chuck Chapman's Guelph, Ontario garden, is the University of Guelph. Canadian geneticist Paul Hebert is a professor at the university. According to Cristian Samper, Acting Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, in the February 2008 issue of *Smithsonian* magazine, Professor Hebert got the idea of barcoding DNA strands, an idea which came to him while looking at the 11-digit UPC (Universal Product Code) barcodes on grocery products. The UPC barcodes distinguish and allow inventory tracking of millions of product items. “He posited that it should be possible to use short stretches of DNA code [nucleotide sequence variations] to distinguish species of flora and fauna.” In 2003 Hebert proposed the compilation of a “public library of DNA barcodes” that would be linked to named species. This library would “provide a new master key for identifying species, one whose power will rise with increased taxon coverage and with faster, cheaper sequencing.”

In 2004 the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation funded the Consortium for the Barcode of Life (CBOL). Members and staffers are working out of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History organizing a world-wide effort to compile a reference library of DNA barcodes. The global database project was initiated on September 14, 2007. Prototype applications are being tested by various U. S. government agencies such as the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. There are now more than 150 member organizations (including herbaria and botanical gardens) from over 50 countries involved in CBOL.

Will this be a taxonomic revolution? Maybe, maybe not. The efficacy of DNA barcoding¹ has had mixed results so far because of several factors such as: the complexity of cryptic species and taxa; the choice of analytical methods used; and non-monophyly of many species at the mitochondrial level. Some botanists consider it as “crackpot science.”

It is reported in the free online encyclopedia Wikipedia, “that the current trend appears to be that DNA barcoding needs to be used alongside traditional taxonomic tools and alternative forms of molecular systematics so that problem cases can be identified and errors detected.” Will the differences between the “splitters” and the “lumpers” evaporate as DNA barcoding progresses? Only time will tell.

A Jewell on Russell, Canada's First HIPS Display Garden

Kate Brewitt, new AIS Region 16 RVP, reports that on Saturday, May 25th and Saturday, June 14th, irisarians will have an opportunity to see the first Canadian garden to be designated a Historic Iris Preservation Society Display Garden. It is David Jewell's garden, 'On Russell', located in Lindsay, ON, Canada. This is a CDN zone 5a garden (U.S. zone 4).

According to Brewitt, “This garden is a beautiful oasis situated on a residential property in Lindsay, which is northeast of Toronto. Having spent an evening under the stars last summer with David and a group of iris lovers I know what a safe haven it can be, except from the mosquitoes. Not only are there irises here but there are daylilies, hostas, a greenhouse full of orchids and, at last count, three ponds. And if this isn't enough, last summer a section of the neighbor's property was purchased so the garden could be expanded to include a complete collection of the Dykes Medal winners, plus many other favorite plants. In total there are approximately 250 iris cultivars in various colors and sizes. May 25th will be a Miniature and Standard Dwarf bearded iris showing, while it is anticipated that the Tall Bearded collection will be in full bloom for June 14th.”

Mark your calendars and plan on dropping by for a visit 'On Russell'. 99 Russell Street West, Lindsay, ON Canada K9V 2X5.

Directions can be found on www.onrussell.com or www.mapquest.ca. David Jewell can be contacted at (705) 878-5742, or via email at info@onrussell.com.

1 DNA barcoding is a taxonomic method that uses a short genetic marker in an organism's mitochondrial DNA to identify it as belonging to a particular species.

Region 21 AIS Membership Milestones

Region 21 includes the states of Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota. They have reported that several members reached milestones in their AIS membership in 2007. Sixteen people have been AIS members for 25 years or more including: Mrs. Robert Steele, 40 years; Vince Fox, 44 years; Eugene Newburn, 48 years; Allan Ensminger 51 years; and, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Hildenbrandt, 53 years.

Region 16, Toronto Region Iris Society Open Garden

AIS Region 16 (Canada) RVP Kate Brewitt has planned an Open Garden event on Sunday, May 18th for the Toronto Region Iris Society (TORIS). There will be a large display of MDBs, SDBs and IBs dependent on the weather and Mother Nature. This open garden gathering will allow Canadian members to visit with their new RVP. Directions to the 120 Glass Drive, Aurora, Ontario address can be found on www.mapquest.ca, by calling Brewitt at (905) 841-9676 or via email at just1moreiris@gmail.com.

In Memoriam

Dr. Frank B. Galyon, Jr.

(September 25, 1923 – February 20, 2007)

Dr. Galyon, 83, of Knoxville, TN in Region 7, passed away at home after a lengthy illness. Frank was an ophthalmologist who operated a private ophthalmology practice in downtown Knoxville for many years until his retirement. He was preceded in death by his wife Mildred Peck Galyon and his sister Pauline Staub Galyon Walker. Dr. Galyon is survived by three nieces, one nephew and his devoted caregiver, Mike Hewitt.

Galyon received his B.S. and M.D. degrees from the University of Tennessee in 1950 and 1951. Then he received an M.S. in Ophthalmology from the University of Michigan in 1956. A charter member of the East Tennessee Iris Society in 1957, Galyon wrote several articles for the AIS *Bulletin* including a eulogy on Paul Cook who had encouraged him as an iris hybridizer in the 1950s. Galyon only registered four irises with 'Fire Chief' (59, TB) winning his sole HM in 1959. However, he also hybridized magnolias, daylilies, camellias and daffodils. 'Frank's Masterpiece' is a noted magnolia while 'Millie Galyon', a large red-cupped white daffodil named for his wife, is a popular variety today. He had a strong knowledge of plant genetics which resulted in scientific articles for the American Daffodil Society's *Journal* and the Aril Society International's *Yearbook*. He was awarded the ADS Gold Medal in 2004, only 30 years after making his first daffodil crosses. Since daffodils take much longer than irises to develop, his body of work

with miniature and small standard daffodils will continue after his death with introductions through Mitsch Daffodils in Oregon.

Opal M. Gray (December 13, 1911 – January 13, 2007)

Gray, 95, of Belton, TX in Region 17 died in a Denton, Texas care facility after a long life. Opal was the matriarch of the Belton Iris Society which was founded in April of 1951 and which she joined in 1953, the year of her marriage to Doyle Gray. She served as club president three times, 1967-68, 1975-77 and 1993-95. At the regional level she served as Region 17 secretary, membership chairman and Judges' Training chairman. She participated in local iris shows winning Best of Show eight times through the years. She attended eight AIS national conventions.

Opal was a graduate of San Saba High School, attended the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, and graduated from Draughons Business College in Abilene. She worked for the Federal Home Administration from 1933 until early retirement in 1965.

Vincent Italian (September 27, 1938 – November 28, 2007)

Italian, 69, of Bridgeton, MO in Region 18 passed away after complications from several ailments. He is survived by his wife Patricia Italian (nee Myers); son Joseph Italian; daughter Debbie Italian Crandall; and granddaughters Rebecca Ruth Crandall and Gianna Elyce Italian.

Vince Italian was a U. S. Navy veteran and a retired Production Supervisor of aerosol product lines at Bristol Meyers, where he was employed for 35 years. Italian was a long-time member of the Greater St. Louis Iris Society and the O'Fallon Iris Society. As a gardener his interest was in "big" flowers, be it tall bearded irises, daylilies or daffodils. Vince was a superb flower designer. He won many, many Best Design and Design Sweepstakes awards for his beautiful and creative designs. At the 2005 AIS Convention in St. Louis, all the design centerpieces at 50+ tables were his creations. Although most of his designs were planned well in advance of the flower show, he was noted for his ability to throw together something in five minutes to fill a show vacancy – and he often won first place ribbons for the effort. Pictures of some of his designs are displayed in the new AIS Toolbox section on Design in the AIS web site www.irises.org.

Gertrude “Gertie” Remmel Butler
(March 31, 1910 – September 29, 2007)

Butler, 97, of Little Rock, AR in Region 22 died at home after a long life. Gertie and her late husband Richard “Dick” Butler were mainstays for many years at AIS and SLI conventions. She had a sparkling personality and one seldom saw her without a big smile on her face. Gertie is survived by her son, Richard Colburn Butler III of Washington, AR; two sisters-in-law and several other family members. She and Dick maintained a country garden of many irises.

Following high school in Little Rock, Gertie graduated in 1930 from National Park Seminary in the Washington D.C. area. She had a varied life, active in many organizations. She was a cheerleader, a lifeguard, an archery product model, an aerobics instructor for over thirty years, an American Red Cross volunteer and later a member of its Pulaski County Chapter board of directors. She and Dick, an attorney, were married in 1936. Gertie was a member of the Junior League of Little Rock and its president in 1948-49. She was a member of the local chapter of the Garden Club of America and local president in 1956-58, winning a Zone IX horticulture award in 1981 and a national award in 2005 for her efforts caring for the rose garden at the Pulaski County Courthouse.

Gertie was an active member of the Central Arkansas Iris Society as well as the Society for Louisiana Irises. She had a deep interest in daffodils and she and Dick endowed the daffodil display garden at Hendrix College in Conway. She was a charter member of the board of the Arkansas Field Office of the Nature Conservancy. The Gertrude Remmel Butler Child Development Center of First United Methodist Church in Little Rock was named after her. Hybridizer Charles Arny introduced a Louisiana iris ‘Gertie Butler’ in her honor in 1990. 

Errata

As with all human-guided enterprises, mistakes are bound to occur. The *Bulletin* staff acknowledges the following errata, with apologies, thanks to the keen eyes of observant readers like you.

In the January issue we omitted the winner of the Silver Medal for the Youth Division at the SEMO Iris Society show in Cape Girardeau. The winner was Gabriel Lockhart.

The Best Seedling honor was also omitted from that show. The Best Seedling award went to Dan and Nancy Elliott for their seedling 44-00.

Section Happenings

By Jim Morris, Section Liaison Consultant, Missouri

Historically the Sections of AIS have been listed in the front of the AIS *Bulletin* in the order in which they were chartered, beginning with the Median Iris Society in 1960. Recently I found an error in that *Bulletin* listing that has existed since the Summer 1979 issue, Vol. LX, No. 3 (itself listed in error as No. 2), Series Number 234.

It seems that the then new editor, Ann Branch Dasch, was unaware of this policy; and when the AIS Board of Directors removed the American Aril Society from Section status and approved the Dwarf Iris Society's petition for Section status at the November, 1978 board meeting, she simply removed the one and replaced it with the other. It has been corrected in this issue of the *Bulletin*. Although the DIS had been organized by Walter Welch in 1950, it had operated semi-autonomously for 28 years. At one time DIS had its own separate awards system and iris judges. With the diminishment of Walter Welch's influence in his old age (he died in 1980), a grass roots movement within DIS brought about DIS bylaws change, conformance with AIS Section requirements, and the petition in 1978 by the DIS board to finally become an AIS Section.

SSI Distinguished Service Award 2007

At the spring 2007 AIS Convention in Oklahoma City, OK, Ellen Gallagher was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Society for Siberian Irises. Gallagher, of Berlin, NH in Region 1, was editor of *The Siberian Iris* for six years ending in 2007 and still handles its advertising. She is the organizer, moderator and owner of the active email discussion list called SIBROB, now in its tenth year. She is a member of the Median Iris Society board of directors, a member of the AIS photo contest committee, and has been an AIS garden/exhibition judge for eight years. She has been a member of the Maine Iris Society for about 12 years.

Ellen grew up in southern Vermont and now lives in the far northern White Mountains of New Hampshire. She remembers growing irises from at least age nine with her mother and picking out varieties from iris catalogs. She presently grows a fairly large garden of most iris types that will grow in her USDA Zone 3 area. This includes

about 150 Siberians, Japanese, all median classes with an emphasis on MTBs, Arilbreds, TBs and species with quite a few aphyllas.

Reblooming Iris Society Checklist

The Reblooming Iris Society reports that a new *Checklist of Reblooming Irises* will be available in the spring of 2008. Several years of work has been expended on this publication by Linda Mann, Betty Wilkerson, Robin Shadlow, and the late Rosalie Figge. Information on price and ordering will be listed in the spring issue of the *Reblooming Iris Recorder*.

Kudos

A big thank you is due Bob Pries, Jean Morris and Mike Unser for their efforts on the new AIS Toolbox on the AIS web site. Bob, as AIS Public Relations and Marketing chairman, is an idea man who is one of those "Directors of Wow" that president Roy Epperson talks about. Jean wrote the Design Tutorial portion and Mike put it all together as webmaster for the HIPS web site, the medium used to develop the AIS Toolbox. Thanks to Mike Unser and the Historic Iris Preservation Society for their support.

Gleanings

The Journal of the Society for Louisiana Irises seems to always have interesting original articles. Their Fall 2007 issue of the *Fleur de Lis* has one by two New Zealand growers who decided to start a Louisiana Iris nursery. The trials and tribulations of Stephanie Boot and Darlene Cook to import iris rhizomes from Australia under the radical change in regulations imposed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and having the rhizomes (now classified as *dormant bulbs*) treated with chemicals in a regime of dipping procedures, inspected and certified to that effect by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, is enough to make a grown person cry out in despair. The pictures of denuded and dormant rhizomes and related discussion of "eco-fascists," — "some of those in authority who seem determined to limit the availability of new exotic plants entering the country, and to promote only native plants" is scary.

The Fall 2007 Bulletin of the Species Iris Group of North America has an article on *Iris prismatica* by Carla Lankow that describes the species and warns that "frequently what you find in the trade as *I. prismatica* may indeed be a small, fine *I. sibirica*, buyer beware." Lankow goes on to say, "Once you have grown this iris you are unlikely to

confuse it with *I. sibirica* which forms a tight clump while *I. prismatica* increases by long stolons and thus forms a very loose clump." The article is illustrated by several fine varietal pictures. Further on in the SIGNA Bulletin is a stunning picture of gigantic rhizomes of *I. pseudacorus* in Russia which was used to illustrate an article by Dr. G.I. Rodionenko on beardless irises.

The Southwestern Michigan Iris Society reported in the Society for Japanese Irises bulletin, *The Review*, about the Kalamazoo Japanese Iris Display. They posit, "We have more fun putting on this iris 'display' than when we had officially judged shows." In this case it is judged by the general public as each visitor is handed a blue ribbon and asked to place it on their favorite stalk. They report, "We get a lot more questions about these late blooming iris as they contemplate their one and only 'vote'; more so than when we had judged shows and visitors just walked past the stalks with 'predetermined' status!"

The internet continues to change the iris world. The Society for Pacific Coast Native Iris reports in their Fall 2007 *Almanac* that editor Terri Hudson has finished indexing all the *Almanacs* to date with a PDF file on the SPCNI website. Hudson is also exploring the possibility of uploading future issues of the *Almanac* to their website and emailing it to members instead of sending it through the U.S. mail. Further on in the issue are color pictures of gorgeous blue PCIs, including 'Pacific Miss' (Belardi 99) the 2007 Mitchell Medal winner. They are listed under the heading "The Year of the Blues..."

Future Section Conventions

And finally as is my standard practice, herein is a listing of all future mini-conventions as the Sections and Cooperating Societies report them.

Society for Louisiana Irises

April 23-26, 2009, Shreveport, LA

April 22-24, 2010, Dallas, TX

Aril Society International

Albuquerque Aril & Iris Society, "Aril and Median Trek"

April 23-30, 2008, Albuquerque, NM

Society for Japanese Irises

July 3-5, 2008, Kalamazoo, MI

Siberian/Species

June 2009, Twin Cities Area, MN

Spuria Iris Society

June 2010, Portland, OR 

Donations To AIS

November 15, 2007 – February 15, 2008

Compiled by Donna James, Donations Secretary

IN MEMORY OF	FUND CODE
Sara Holk (CA)	
HI Desert Iris & Daylily Society (CA)	Gen
Inland Region Iris Society (CA)	R&S
Barbara Turner (CA)	
HI Desert Iris & Daylily Society (CA)	Gen
Richard Sparling (MA)	
Iris Society of Massachusetts (MA)	R&S
Garden State Iris Society (NJ)	Gen
L. Bruce Hornstein (MD)	R&S
Warren Larson (CA)	
Donald & Teddy Cunningham (CA)	Gen
Vincent Italian (MO)	
The Greater ST. Louis Iris Society (MO)	GYF
Amelia Colombus (NY)	
Randy & Lillian Fleming (NY)	YCCR
Ron & Donna James (NY)	YCCR
Central New York Iris Society (NY)	YCCR
JoAnne McGrew (CA)	
Sierra Foothills Iris Society (CA)	GYF
Kitty Loberg (CA)	Gen
Nancy Bannett (CA)	
Sierra Foothills Iris Society (CA)	GYF
Frances Evans (KS)	
Wichita Area Iris Club (KS)	Gen
Richard Benton (CA)	
Inland Region Iris Society (CA)	R&S
Caroline Poe (KS)	
Wichita Area Iris Club (KS)	Gen
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GIFTS

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AIS Donation Fund Codes:

CCYA = Clarke Cosgove Youth Award Fund
 *CIP-YF = Classroom Iris Project – Youth Fund
 G = General Fund
 G/I = General Funds Insurance Defrayment
 GYF = General Youth Fund
 LIB = Library Fund
 R&S = Research & Scholarship

*Please note: CIP-FY = Classroom Iris Project-Youth Fund. Due to the generosity of the donors, the Classroom Iris Project Youth Fund is fully subscribed. Please consider making donations to other Youth funds.

How to Make your Donation to One of the AIS Funds

Donations to AIS Fund Accounts should be made payable to: AIS or the American Iris Society.

Mail to Donna James, 887 County Route 3, Hannibal, NY 13074-2356;
 (315) 598-3346; ron2don@alltel.net

Clearly identify on a separate piece of paper:

1. The recipient of the memorial or honor.
2. The Fund to which you wish the donation to be credited.
3. The name of person, persons, or organization donation.
4. The address of person(s) to notify that a donation has been made.

AIS Foundation Donations

Contributions to the American Iris Society Foundation are used for the research of the genus iris, administration of scholarships and the support of the AIS Library through the Evelyn Jones Memorial Library Fund. This research includes the taxonomy as well as the cause of diseases and their cures. Over the years, grants have been issued to the top researchers and educational institutions throughout the world.

January 2008 – February 2008

Contributions in memory of:

Grover Bennett (IA)

Siouxland Iris Society (IA)

Edna Bryceson (CA)

Betty & Jack Schmidt (CA)

Gertie Butler (AR)

Central Arkansas Iris Society

Leona Belle Haskew (TX)

Jim Landers (TX)

Bobbie Johnson (TX)

Johnson County Iris Society (TX)

Joanne McGrew (CA)

Santa Rosa Iris Society (CA)

How can you make a contribution or memorial gift to the American Iris Society Foundation?

Checks should be made payable to the American Iris Society Foundation. When sending a memorial gift, please include the name and address of the next-of-kin, so an acknowledgement card may be sent. Your tax-deductible donations should be sent to:

The American Iris Society Foundation

Roger P. Mazur Sec./Treas.

815 South 67th Ave.

Omaha, NE 68106-1115

The AIS and the AIS Foundation are independent entities. Donations to both are both tax deductible. The primary difference between these donations is that the AIS spend both the principle and interest of the gift as needed to pursue the specific goal selected by the donor in support of the activities of the Society. The AIS Foundation spends only the interest on the gift and maintains the principle in perpetuity to help accomplish the goals of the Foundation which are to foster and disseminate knowledge and appreciation of the genus Iris.

*Please see the Foundation website at www.aisfoundation.org
for further information.*

IRS E-Card

for Affiliates, Regions, and Sections

By Jill Bonino, California

In 2008 the U.S. Treasury is requiring an electronic filing from all Section 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations who do not file an annual Form 990 because their income is too small.

As Treasurer of the AIS, I will be making these filings for all of the AIS affiliates, regions and sections that meet BOTH of the following requirements:

1. Have been granted section 501(c)(3) status and have an employer ID #.
2. Do not file a Form 990 or Form 990T because of low income.

If your affiliate club, region or section DOES NOT MEET BOTH of the above requirements, you do not have to do anything.

If you are an affiliate/region in Canada you do not have to do anything as your affiliate/region is not subject to U.S. tax law.

For all affiliates, regions and sections that meet BOTH #1 and #2 above, please send the following information to me by email as soon as possible:

1. Organization legal name.
2. Any other names your organization uses.
3. Organization's mailing address.
4. Organization's website address (if applicable).
5. Organization's employer identification number (EIN).
6. Name and address of a principal officer of your organization (preferably the current President).
7. Organization's annual tax period**
8. Verify that your organization's annual gross receipts are still normally \$25,000 or less, AND
9. Indicate if your organization has terminated (is no longer in business).

**The organization's annual tax period is when your club/region/section prepares its annual income and expense report, whether December 31st of each year or another month of the year.

The annual electronic notice is due by the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of your annual tax period. For example, if your

club's/region's/section's tax period ends on December 31, 2007, the annual electronic notice is due May 15, 2008.

I will acknowledge when I receive your information and when I have filed your electronic notice, so that you know your club/region/section is in compliance. All of this hopefully can be handled by email as much as possible.

Please let me know either at aistreas@earthlink.net or at my mailing address below if you have any questions AND to file your answers to the above 9 questions.

This is a new thing, so I will work with everyone as best I can to get the information I need to make the filings as easy as I can. I will need all the help I can get, so your timely response will be greatly appreciated. Several clubs, regions and sections have already sent their information to me and I appreciate your quick response.

Jill Bonino, AIS Treasurer
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Introducing Janet Smith

Iris Program Resources (Slides & Digital) is the new name for the AIS Slides Program Committee and that change welcomes a new chairman. Janet Smith of Coarsegold, CA has long been a member of AIS and the Fresno Iris Society bringing a wealth of administrative and artistic experience and enthusiasm to the job.

The rate of technological change has made it necessary to accommodate both members who have computer-savvy skills and equipment and those who do not. While it is necessary to continue the work we have done in the past with slide programs, AIS faces many new challenges and expectations for what will be requested in the future.

Existing slide programs have been updated and newer slides are being sought for new programs. With the explosion of digital technology, high quality pictures are available with a minimum of cost and effort while slides are becoming more difficult to obtain.

Work has been completed on some new and exciting programs with a lot more ideas coming in from all over the AIS world. New CDs are available for 2005 and 2006 Introductions, Dykes Medal Winners 1927 to 2007, all new Medians CD, The Iris Family, 2006 and 2007 Conventions, just to name a few. Many AIS members have already developed programs and are generously sharing them with AIS to make available to everyone.

Please contact Janet with slides, program ideas, program orders at Janet Smith, P.O. Box 1585, Coarsegold, CA 93614-1585 (559) 683-0447 (Home and FAX line)

E-mail: AISSlides@irises.org 



Introducing AIS

Treasurer Jill Bonino

My love of iris began in 1979 when I bought a duplex. The first spring a clump of purple flowers bloomed in a bed next to the front porch. When I moved to Breckenridge, Colorado from Oklahoma City in the 80s I still didn't know what they were. When I moved back to Oklahoma City from Breckenridge, Colorado (also in the 80s--too long of a story for this bio--you'll have to ask me), I bought a single family home built in the 50s and discovered I owned a whole back yard full of clumps of this same flower only in different colors!



I had to move to Los Angeles in 1989 to take a job as the internal audit manager with the Los Angeles Police Credit Union (LAPCU), move twice to different apartments, get married, and move to Glendale, California before I would learn that these lovely plants were iris. I started volunteering at a large public garden in La Canada named Descanso Gardens in 1996. My first job was weeding the iris garden with a woman named Barbara Brow. She introduced me to the members of the San Fernando Valley Iris Society who were maintaining a master planting of iris at Descanso for the Region 15 Spring Trek in 1997. That was my first Spring Trek. In 1998 I attended my first AIS Convention in Colorado with the rain, snow, sleet, and frozen iris at Dave Miller's house. Irises are also beautiful when they are frozen! Marky Smith was my bus partner and I was an iris student on the bus for three days learning from a master.

I met a lot of new friends at my local club over the next few years along with acting as SFVIS Secretary, Vice President, and Editor. In 2001 I began attending AIS Board meetings and became the Recording Secretary for a couple of years. In 2003 Sara Marley retired as General Secretary and I was elected to that position. In 2005, I was elected AIS Treasurer when Jay Hudson retired from the Board after seven years. I am now Region 15 Treasurer as well. In 2006 I was approved as a Garden/Exhibition judge with AIS.

In addition to gardening and iris, I have a background with numbers. I became a CPA in 1976 after finishing a Bachelors and Masters in

Accounting at Oklahoma State University and worked in several large public accounting firms doing taxes and auditing before landing at the LAPCU in 1989.

My husband Joe and I are celebrating our 15th anniversary this June and I have redone our garden several times over these years. You would think the weeds wouldn't dare grow anymore after listening to me yell at them, but they are relentless. We now have about 300 iris varieties that include TBs, medians, Louisianas, spurias, PCIs, and species. Joe retired from the LAPD in 2001 after 33 years and has helped me tremendously with photography. My slide collection of iris has grown into the thousands since I started taking pictures of them in 1998, and I have done slide programs around Region 15 and 14 over the last several years. We have two furry four legged kids; Philippa who is a 12 year-old Siamese and reigns indoors, and Domino a black and white stray of indeterminate age who guards the backyard and sleeps in the garage. 

IRIS INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2008

CHINA IN SPRINGTIME (Niswonger'08), SPEC-X, Sdlg. Sib. 3-06:Sib. 6-99(Out In Missouri x *I typhifolia*)X Unknown. 42" (107 cm), E. The advantage of *I typhifolia* hybrids is their early bloom compared to most Siberian irises. This one is probably the tallest of most of my hybrids with a good strong stalk. It's an unusual color too, being a light blue bitone with a slight edge of white around the falls. The standards are light blue, the style arms blue and the falls a darker blue. It's fertile both ways, providing an opportunity for further advancement of this line of breeding. \$30.00

MISSOURI MORNING (Niswonger'08), Spuria, Sdlg. Sp 2-99: Missouri Rainbows X Unknown. 38" (97 cm), Mid. I feel Iris growers are still not tuned in to the joy of growing spurias. They are good for arrangements, blooms last longer than most, good accent plants for the perennial border and they extend the season. This one is a good example of a typical spuria with nice form, a color of light blue with a touch of violet and a gold blaze in the center of the falls. It is easy to grow, increases well and doesn't need to be moved as often as tall bearded irises. It's fertile both ways and good for hybridizing. \$30.00

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The AIS 2008 Photo Contest

AIS invites you again to participate in our annual Photo Contest. This contest is open to everyone and is free to enter, except that Judges and the contest chairperson are not eligible to enter or win. The winning photo of each category will be published in the AIS Bulletin and on the AIS web site. Prior year's winners and honorable mentions can be viewed at www.irisphotocontest.org. **The 2008 winner of each category will receive a 2008 introduction from the Iris Society of Austin (AIS Convention host).** The winner of each category will also receive a single annual membership or annual membership extension to AIS. Winners who are AIS life members will receive an annual membership in an AIS Section of their choice. Runner ups of each category will receive a 2006-2007 introduction

How to Enter:

Simply fill out the **entry form** and send it with your photos to AIS at the address below.

You may submit up to five photos in one contest. The deadline for submissions to the 2008 Photo Contest is June 30, 2008.

Irises in photos should be of the genus *Iris*. Entries will be selected and judged in six (6) categories:

1. Irises used in a landscaped garden.
2. Irises in a field or home garden.
3. Events, tours, a person or people (at iris location), shows.
4. Close up of an iris or irises.
5. Photos with art effects, macro photos of bloom segments, photos of pets or wildlife in the irises.
7. Any category taken by a youth photographer (under 19).

Please do not send any photo smaller than 4 x 6 inches, nor larger than 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 (half page) **The ideal size is 5 x 7.** If you are using a digital camera, it is suggested that you take your photos in 360dpi or higher resolution, and we ask that you print and submit your photos on photo paper. Please avoid writing or labeling on the back of the photo, unless to identify a variety or person in the photo.

A panel of three judges will judge photos received and their decisions will be final. At the discretion of the judges, photos not selected in the current contest may be held for further consideration in future contests. Please provide AIS with a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want the photos returned. Photos will otherwise not be returned and may be destroyed when not selected.

Where to send your photos and entry:

The American Iris Society Photo Contest, c/o Kitty Loberg, 1900 Mountain View Lane, Redwood Valley, Calif. 95470, Send inquiries to iris.loberg@comcast.net.

ENTRY FORM:

Photo caption name(s) and names of persons in photos, if any (for reference purposes).

#1 _____

#2 _____

#3 _____

#4 _____

#5 _____

Youth: If this is a youth entry, please tell us your age: _____

I am the person who took the photographs(s) enclosed, and I have not assigned any of my rights associated with these photographs to any third party. By entering the photo contest I am hereby authorizing The American Iris Society a royalty free, non-exclusive right to use winning photograph(s) and photograph(s) worthy of honorable mention in publications, in brochures, and calendars, on the Internet, and for other promotional uses.

Signature _____

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(Receipt of photos will be acknowledged by email. Please provide a SASE if you want a receipt by mail.)

Request For Bearded Iris

AIS Convention: Mad About Iris 2010

The Madison Area Iris Society of Madison, Wisconsin will host the American Iris Society Convention May 31-June 5, 2010. Hybridizers are invited to send guest rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings of bearded irises under consideration for introduction. Please observe the following guidelines when sending guest irises.

1. Up to three rhizomes of each variety will be accepted.
2. The guest irises will be accepted from August 2 through September 15, 2008.
3. Ship guest irises by United States Postal Service (USPS), or by United Parcel Service (UPS) to: Phillip Rowin, 4601 County Hwy. TT, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.
4. The name of the variety, or seedling number, should be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition, the following information should accompany each plant on a separate packing list:
 - a. Hybridizer's name and address, telephone number, and/or e-mail address
 - b. Name or seedling number of the variety
 - c. Type of iris (TB, BB, IB, AB, SDB, etc.)
 - d. Height, color, distinguishing features, and bloom season (EML)
 - e. Year of introduction (if introduced)
 - f. A photo or digital image of the iris bloom would be helpful
5. If a guest seedling is named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairperson no later than December 1, 2009.
6. A receipt will be mailed to all contributors. Shortly before the convention contributors will be asked for instructions regarding the distribution of the plants. Failure to reply by June 15, 2010 will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings and distribute named varieties, one to the garden owner and the rest to the Madison Area Iris Society plant sale. All official guest plants will be returned freight paid, except for foreign addresses.
7. The Convention Committee and the owners of tour gardens will strictly adhere to the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook.
8. The Guest Iris Committee will not be responsible for losses beyond its control, and only irises received through the Guest Iris Chairperson will be listed in the Convention Booklet. 



COPPER (Magee) TB 37" E Large flowers are a rich orange tan. Deep orange beards are set off by a light gold blaze. Strategem X (Sky Surf X Envious) EC 2000 \$40.00

MARY McKENNA (Durrance by Bobal) BB 21" M Near white standards provide vivid contrast to the lavender falls with brick red overlay. Near white veins radiate from the yellow beards. Parentage unknown \$30.00

MUSTARD IMPACT (Jerry Hall) TB 30" L Yellow standards top falls that are infused with mustard yellow. Grey-green streak below yellow gold beards accentuates the mustard impact. Floriferous and bursting with vigor. Song of Norway X Chief Hematite \$40.00

SHOW MISS (Magee) TB 31" E Petite, dazzling girl for the pageant. Standards and style arms are gold, falls gold with purple plic hafts extending down rim of falls. Ivory blaze at tip of orange beards. Showcase X Coloradoan EC 1999 \$40.00

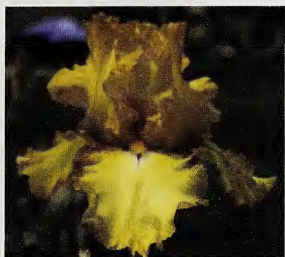
SUNSHINE PEAK (David Miller) TB 30" M Nicely branched with a minimum of 7 buds. Standards and style arms are a clear light yellow with white falls outlined in yellow. Very robust grower will surely please. Named for one of the shorter Colorado 14,000' snow capped peaks because of its shorter stature, but the Sunshine and Snow combo make for a Good Colorado Day! Little Mary Sunshine X Tatiana \$40.00

WESTCLIFFE BEAUTY (Jerry Hall) TB 40" ML Big blue lavender to mauve self is nicely ruffled and laced. Beards and haft markings are yellow gold. Tall, well branched sturdy stalks, robust growth, and a lovely sweet fragrance all reflect on the appropriateness of its name - one of the truly beautiful spots in Colorado. Honky Tonk Blues X Mystic's Muse \$40.00

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LONG'S GARDENS - INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2008



SHOW MISS



MARY McKENNA



MUSTARD IMPACT



COPPER



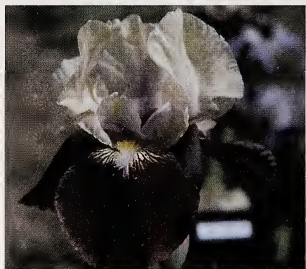
WESTCLIFFE BEAUTY



SUNSHINE PEAK

Abbey Gardens

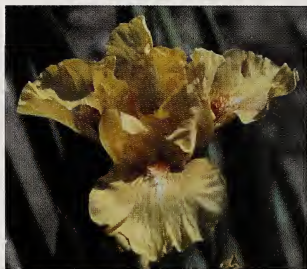
2008 Introductions
From Nancy Price



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IB -- \$20

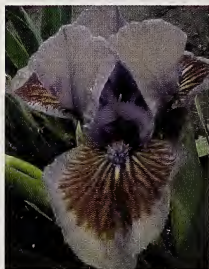
Slang X Yes



SIR BENJAMIN DOVER

SDB -- \$15

Spanish Rainbows X Rainbow Rim



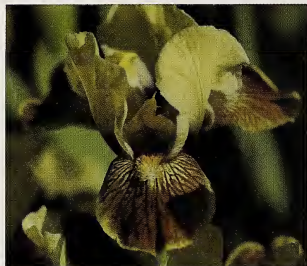
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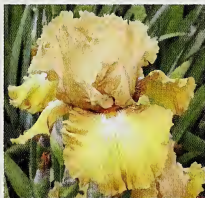


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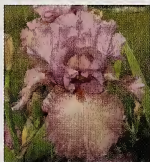
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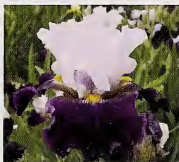
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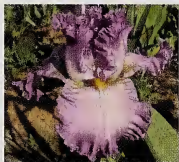
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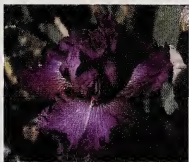
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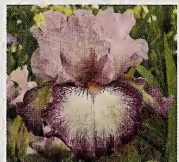
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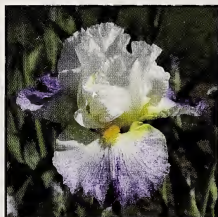


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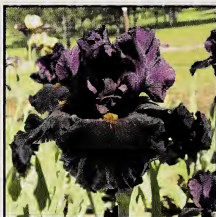
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2008 Introductions



CONCERTO FOR LLOYD (Joan Roberts '08) 37" M. Sdlg. No. 1936-25: (1633-1: (Clarence x Cee Cee) X Double Dribble) The name was graciously given to me by Clarence Mahan but the introduction of this iris was inspired by Lloyd Zurbrigg. We were wandering around my seedling bed and he saw this iris from a few rows away. He said "Oh Joan, look at this one – it's better than Clarence!" I had originally hoped to name it Lloyd Zurbrigg but alas, it did not rebloom - at least not for me. Looking at the parentage, it might do so in warmer climates.

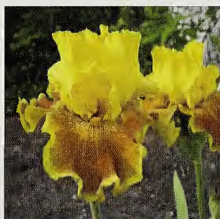
Light blue stands, darker near the top. Wide flaring lightly ruffled falls are medium blue with a prominent white blaze that is highlighted by deep blue lines around the sides of the beard (which undoubtedly came from Double Dribble). Yellow-orange beards are light blue at the ends. Excellent branching with 8-10 buds **\$50.00**



CHERRY CHEEKS (Joan Roberts '08) 28" E. Sdlg. No. 1684-5: Sneezy X 1408-5: (734-30 x 734-15: Chocolate Vanilla x 448-10: Ambrosia Delight x Rose Princess). Barely a TB, with only 5-6 buds, this small tail was too pretty not to introduce. Melon with lacy standards and flaring ruffled falls sport a cherry blush surrounded by a melon rim. **\$50.00**



ENCORE LADY (Joan Roberts '08) 36" E & RE Sdlg. No. 1943-19RE. (1684-9: Sib to Cherry Cheeks X 1535-5:1327-6:(MyFriend Jonathan x 554-4: (Innerst 2449-4: Brandy x Homecoming Queen) x All Reddy)) X 1329-1: (My Friend Jonathan x Her Royal Highness). Elliott Tozier chose the name for this pretty lady. Wide ruffled gold, with a copper fall wash and a gold rim. Good branching, 7 buds. **\$50.00**



REPEAT PERFORMANCE (Joan Roberts '08) 37" E & RE. Sdlg. No. 2059-2RE: (Twilight Fancies X Snowed In). This beautiful iris has it all. Branching, bud count, form, large flowers, with ruffling and width and absolutely beautiful color. Standards are icy blue and the falls are velvety dark blue with a small white blaze around the gold beards, tipped blue. And yes, it reblooms! **\$50.00**

TRIBUTE TO ROSALIE (Joan Roberts '08) 34" E & RE. Sdlg. No. 1821-2RE: (Innerst 4863-3: Established Powers x Flights of Fancy) X Carnival Song. A favorite seedling of Rosalie Figge, prompting Ken to suggest the name. Stands Apricot with a red-violet flush. Ruffled. Flaring falls washed and lined with red violet ending in a darker violet band. Apricot beards, white at the ends. Nice branching, 7 buds.

After having 55 out of 60 days of rain and we couldn't walk, drive or paddle into the garden, most of the irises were lost (5 1/2 acres). There stood a 6" high iris with a tiny bloom of the most beautiful color I had ever seen. I lifted it out of the mud and put it in a drier bed. I didn't hold out much hope but was pleasantly surprised the next spring to see it growing- and then to have rebloom in the fall was miraculous. It was the only one of the remaining seedlings that rebloomed. This iris must have been meant to be a Tribute to Rosalie.

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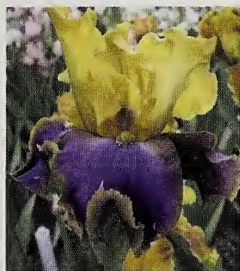
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There was a crooked man and he walked a crooked mile,
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He bought a crooked cat, which caught a crooked mouse,
And they all lived together in a little crooked house.

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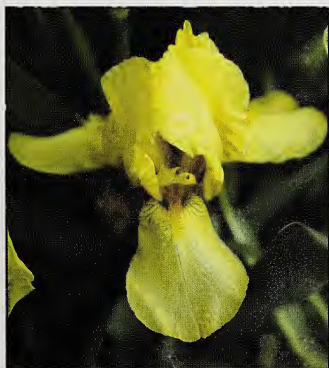
FOURSOME

(P-17: (*I. imbricata* x M-3:
(*I. timofejewii* x *I. reichenbachii*
"Van Nes")) X *I. variegata*
14-18" White with lavender veining.



HUTCH

('Foursome' sibling)
15-18"
Bronze, copper, gold, white.
Heavily veined.



SHERMAN

(P-17 x M-3) X M-3
14-16"
Full yellow self with
orange beards.

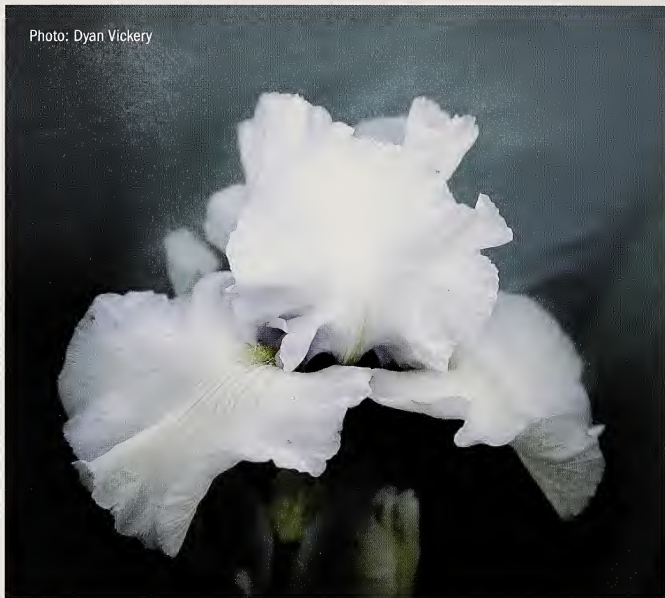


TRIPLICITY

('Sherman' sibling)
14-18"
Lovely pastel.

www.iriscolorado.com

Photo: Dyan Vickery



EMMA'S LAUGHTER (Poole, '08 – sdlg. CC-3-1: Aaron's Bluebells x white sdlg., very early) Named for our oldest granddaughter. A very clean, cool, blue-white iris, tinted blue in the heart of the flower. Not just another white iris. This flower has hafts that lap 5/8" – 3/4" inch with no visible haft markings. Pale blue-white beards tipped pale yellow. Moderate branching on very stiff, upright stalks topping out at 33", support 6 - 8 large, pleasantly ruffled flowers of heavy substance with a sweet, but not overly pronounced, fragrance. Just before the buds open, they smell faintly like crushed cedar. Excellent garden plant. Transplants readily. Emma's Laughter is not an inbred iris, but a true F1 hybrid produced by crossing two inbred lines of iris to produce a hybrid, like producing hybrid corn. This iris, once established and grown in good garden soil in a Midwest like climate, should not, be watered or fertilized. Emma's Laughter can perform without being pampered. \$50.00

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Some Thoughts on Design

By Carolyn Hawkins, Georgia

Arranging with flowers is supposed to be fun and a learning exercise. Recently, Jean Morris of St. Louis has accomplished that in a design booklet. She sent me her draft and asked for my advice. So I advised and I am here to tell you this booklet will help you immeasurably with the designing process. She did a wonderful job of explaining flower arranging basics; anyone can learn from it. Jean has worked for years with youth and encouraged flower shows and design work through her local iris society. Her sincere interest in design coupled with her diligent efforts to write this booklet is much appreciated and you will enjoy the way she leads you through the process. It is available to all of you on the web site at www.irises.org through the Toolbox link. The booklet is divided into several interesting sections. One of special interest to me was the theme ideas for design divisions for an iris show. Jean has given us many, many good ideas for use when we are drawing a blank about how to approach a design division theme and class descriptions.

I took the old saying about a picture being worth 1,000 words into account for this article. The pictures illustrate problems and ideas. Most of these were used in a judges' training session.

Design 1

The first two are white open risers at different levels, the taller one at 18 inches and the shorter one at 12 inches. First I used just the tall riser with white iris, hellebores, and hosta foliage. Then I pushed the other one up to it and asked the group which one they liked better. I asked about balance and then dominance. Next was contrast and the white and black gave good contrast. I asked if there was rhythm, then about proportion and scale. What do you think? Do the designs fit the space and are the flowers and foliage in scale (not too small but compatible in size to each other and to the container, etc.)? I told the group to study them with these thoughts in mind and decide which one they would award the ribbon to. The group in attendance chose the design with only the tall riser. They felt adding the shorter riser somewhat confused the design. The plant materials did extend above the background so a point should be deducted for that. Note the use of the black background that provides contrast for the all of the white components and the black mat to anchor the design to the table.



Design 1



Design 2

The second set of designs illustrates using the same design in front of different backgrounds. Which one shows off and enhances the design better? I have always encouraged the use of backgrounds to define the exhibitor's space. The backgrounds used are the cardboard project boards that can be purchased for about \$5 at office supply stores or school supply stores. Black and white is easy to find and sometimes colors are available too. The plant materials in this design are yellow iris, purple larkspur, unopened hydrangea blossoms and *Arum italicum* foliage. Dried wood is also used. Black mats were used again too.

Design 3

The third design is a creative design using iris, hellebore foliage, and a palm spathe. The rhythm achieved with the palm spathe is exciting and different. The spathe had been split and curved into a spiral. Of course I was interested about the process but I understand that it has to be soaked until pliable and then it can be manipulated. Keep a watch out for such unusual line materials. No base was used to anchor it to the table. Do you think one was needed or not?

Design 4

The last design employs copper tubing for pizzazz in an otherwise ordinary design. Dried Siberian pods are the straight line material with Louisiana iris and *Aucuba japonica* foliage. The creativity comes



Design 2

Left:
Design 3Right:
Design 4

from adding the tubing; otherwise this is just traditionally placed plant material in a container. Again no mat was used.

If you have any questions or comments, just let me know at carolyn9999@comcast.net. Let AIS know what you think about the Toolbox on the website. I am very excited and grateful for the efforts of several who put it together. If references to the principles of design are not clear to you check out the 2007 AIS JudgesHandbook on pages 223-224 for more information. 

Reflections on the British Iris Society Convention

May 25-27, 2007

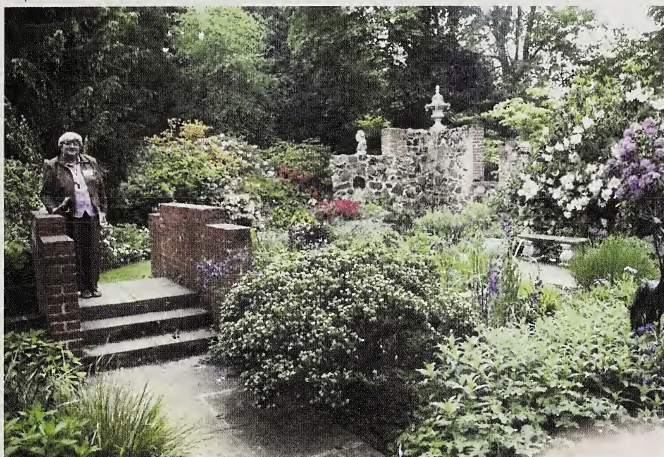
By Anna and David Cadd, California

After spending a few exciting days in the middle of London, staying in the Duke of Lancaster Hotel near Hyde Park, going to the Chelsea Flower Show and sightseeing London by tour bus and boat, we were ready to take the train from the famous Victoria Station for a 1½ hour ride to Canterbury in Kent County, where the 2007 British Iris Society Convention was being held. We already knew, with our disappointment, that the President of BIS, Clive Russell, would not be there, as he'd broken his ankle and cracked a couple of ribs, gotten a full leg cast and instructions to rest. But we knew that the members of BIS would do their best. Thanks to the Kent Group Convention Committee (Olga Wells, Thelma Naylor, Carole & Brian Hersey, Anne Oakley, Berney & Alice Baughen and Chris and Hilary Towers) for making the convention a great success.

During the Registration we learned that there were 34 attendees from all parts of England, 5 people from USA, 2 each from Australia, France and Italy and one from South Africa. It was really an International Convention and it was fun to meet old friends and start new friendships. We also learned that there would be 243 varieties of irises, sent by 29 hybridizers. There were also discussions that because of the unusual hot weather in Europe a lot of varieties bloomed about three weeks ahead of time. We departed on the tours the next morning after a delicious breakfast. The guest irises were planted in three locations: Great Comp Garden, Sutton Valence Allotments and Plummers Farmhouse. In addition there were different gardens to see and enjoy including Sissinghurst and the Otford village.

Great Comp Garden

Surrounding a 17th century house, Great Comp Garden is the delightful creation of Roderick and Joy Cameron, since moving to Great Comp in 1957. Now extended to over 7 acres, the garden delights visitors with an increasingly varied plant collection. Between the immaculate islands of lawns there are beautiful perennial borders with



Anna Cadd in The Great Comp Garden, BIS Convention 2007

a variety of plants blooming all year around. The garden is famous for its early spring bulb collection, salvias, crocosmias, dahlias, kniphofias and other exotic plants. Perennial borders are surrounded by displays of magnolias, azaleas and all kinds of beautiful trees. In the middle of the garden is the peaceful resting area with “ancient” ruins surrounded by ferns and flowers. The curators of the garden are William and Karol Dyson, who are internationally famous for their hybridizing work with salvias. You can buy some of their creations at the small nursery located on-site.

William Dyson and the gardener Robert Boothe took care of the irises after they had to be removed from Yalding Organic Garden after the first winter in Kent. The guest irises at Great Comp were all planted in the garden settings at the rear of the property and were scattered throughout the borders. From a distance a tall stalk of **‘Torero’** (Cayeux 03, TB) with bright orange standards and bright strawberry red fall caught everyone’s attention. Also spectacular and in full glory were two MTBs: **‘Mermaid Street’** (Baumunk 04) with orchid-pink, lavender veined standards and white, lavender veined falls, and **‘Performer’** (Fischer 03), blue with darker blue veining. We were very impressed with **‘Kiss of Summer’** (Welch 02, TB), with several stalks full of open, wide and ruffled primrose yellow flowers. Between knee-high *Libertia grandiflora* and geraniums, the stalks of Ben Hager’s light blue iris **‘Live Story’** (04, TB) and **‘Fountain of Youth’** (03, TB) with white, blending

to shaded color of blue on the falls were reminders of an old friend forever young.

The Allotments at Sutton Valence

The allotments are situated on the Greensand Ridge and have a wonderful view over the Weald of Kent. They are located at the site of an ancient Saxon battleground named "Bloody Mountain". The gardens belong to Dick and Wendy Payne, both retired teachers. After one of the members of BIS in North Kent passed away, Dick rented another allotment and transferred all the irises. It took the whole summer to make the raised beds. They grow the irises for BIS sales and for BIS members. In this garden 139 TBs, 9 IBs, 25 MTBs, 16 BBs and 21 Siberians were planted for 2007 Convention. The garden is also full of fruits and vegetables.

The irises were growing in nice, wide beds and the garden was in full glory with excellently grown plants free of diseases and weeds. Our eyes from the start were drawn to **'Prowess'** (03, TB) by Larry Johnson, a nice light lavender iris with some white on the standards. Don Spoon's **'Guinevere's Kiss'** (04, TB) really attracted my attention as I like red-maroon irises. This clump had at least six stalks with three to four flowers open. Another red iris of Dr. Spoon's, properly named **'Will Scarlet'** (04, TB), raspberry-red with darker falls and lighter midline



Old Orchard Garden, BIS Convention 2007

below brick orange beard, was showing 13 buds on every stalk! Larry Johnson's **'Solo Flight'** (04, TB), sky-blue lavender, fading to sky blue, was bubbling with flowers, next to **'Tamara Kay'** (04, TB), a blend of rose, amber, gold, and pale dusky lavender tan, and **'Windjammer Seas'** (03, TB), a pale blue washed violet. These were so beautiful and we tip our hats to Mr. Johnson with congratulations! It came as no surprise that **'Windjammer Seas'** won the popularity vote for bearded iris variety. Also beautifully were Rick Ernst's irises **'Conservative View'** (04, TB) and **'It's All Good'** (03, TB) and Ben Hager's **'Ritzy'** (04, TB). Olga Wells' **'Lucy's Gift'** (04), a cheerful MTB, was white with the stippled and veined violet purple flowers, modern form and elegant clump effect. For some reason it reminded me of the cute heroin Lucy from the movie *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Another MTB, Lowell Baumunk's **'Bach Toccata'**, (04, MTB) with yellow, veined maroon standards and white, maroon veined falls in the broken color pattern was the real showstopper. We decided we need to grow more of these MTBs! **'Klieg Light'** (Niswonger 01, TB) was all gold with an unusual white blaze and gold stripes from gold beard to the end of the falls.

But there was another treat – the Siberian iris bed! As we can't grow them so well in California, we always enjoy them somewhere else. Of course the winner of the popularity vote for beardless irises was properly named **'Bright and Beautiful'** (Hollingworth 04) a violet with gold signal and creamy rays spreading dawn falls. Lost in their beauty, there was not enough time to make detailed notes.

Olga Wells' Garden

Adjacent to The Allotments at Sutton Valence was Olga Wells's small iris garden. Here she grows mainly median seedlings and a few named varieties of her own and from other hybridizers. She has been hybridizing medians for about 15 years. There were no convention guest irises, but we were amazed by Olga's creations. **'County Town Red'** (Wells 04, TB), red-black iris with a strong chocolate smell was in full bloom. This is one of the most beautiful red irises! But her MTB seedlings deserved the most admiration. Strong growers, beautiful large flowers with unusual colors and patterns were the favorites of everybody. No wonder that the cameras were clicking when Olga was proudly describing her "children". It was much deserved pride!

Plummers Farmhouse

The next day, sprinkled with raindrops, as almost every day of our stay in England, started on the bus to Sissinghurst. But first we arrived

at Plummers Farmhouse. The land used to plant the garden formed part of the centuries old farm located on the High Weald. The land has underlying clay with the surface mixture of various sands. The heritage of the long cultivation and animal grazing left the soil, which has many local variations, well worked and fertile. Farming stopped here about 20 years ago. Just beyond the iris beds is a long view across the fields was the valley of the little River Crane to Hemstead Forrest. This is also the area where they grow hops.

Professor Margaret Roberts came with her family to live here in 1991 after a working life in London. She started an unusual plant nursery on this site, and then about six years ago decided to focus on irises. As we entered the garden using a small walkway through the dense planting of bushes and trees, we noticed three long beds top dressed with fresh compost. Around the beds were mixed gardens planted with grasses, vegetables and trees. On the beds there were bearded irises of every height, spurias, Siberians and some seedlings, all incorporated with companion plants of different kinds. It was interesting to see how different irises species compete with different plants in the regular, overcrowded garden setting. And for some unexpected reason my camera broke dawn in the middle of the garden, whizzing and humming and not advancing. Maybe it was too much rain? So in distress I tried to change the film and redo some pictures, but there was no time as usual. But the views of this garden are well in our memories as is the whole experience of the 2007 BIS convention. 🌸



Sissinghurst, BIS Convention 2007

Optimistic Scrutiny

By Brock Heilman, Michigan

I have just finished reading my new Judges' Handbook from cover to cover, as I have done at least once each year since I received my first copy as a generous gift in 2005. I hope that all judges and hybridizers do the same if not more frequently.

Rereading all of the expectations for each classification has left me with an increasing feeling of discontent with the 387 varieties of iris I am currently growing. Looking over my records, I have noticed that I can find very few varieties that perform, for me, up to their expectations set by the handbook. Those that do are mainly medians and several beardless types. It makes me wonder what could be done to spread this vigor throughout all of the classifications.

One of my suggestions comes in the form of more stringent regulation of who could introduce an iris. Has it been considered to require any person introducing an iris through the AIS must be an AIS accredited judge in good standing? What better way to improve performance of introduced varieties than to require a thorough knowledge of how to gauge every aspect of an iris before introduction and not just after? This might cut back on the number of introductions, but are the numbers what is lacking?

Or why not require a signed statement with registration, by the originator, that they are aware of and understand all requirements set forth by the latest edition of the Handbook for Judges and Show Officials, and that their proposed introduction either meets or exceeds the goals set for its classification while under their observation? I suppose a downfall to this approach would be the inability to prove an originator made a false statement, though I am thankful to say there are very few, if any, dishonest iris hybridizers. After all, what could be gained by losing trust?

Do you believe either of these ideas could help to reduce the rate of underachieving cultivars on the market? What else could we do to ensure only the absolute best plants reach the gardening public?

Some of the most beautiful introductions have a reputation of poor growth in my area. I am not writing these off, in fact I plan to use them heavily in my breeding program. To create seedling crops that produce these colors, patterns and forms on plants that perform in my climate as well as they have elsewhere seems a worthwhile goal. I cannot imagine

Photo: Heilman

*Iris japonica*

anything but to keep crossing and composting until I know that a seedling has exceptional beauty and growth habits before it reaches the public as an introduction.

While I am in this vein, I would urge hybridizers to work with what people say won't grow in your climate. That difficult plant only has to survive long enough to create pollen and/or seeds. After that, natural selection can take over. What better way to increase vigor than to select seedlings that at least perform up to their classes' standards when grown in less than ideal conditions? Michigan is not exactly the arctic tundra, but the conditions here are not always ideal either. To move to a climate more suited to iris, would make things easier, but at what cost?

Hybridizers please remember before you take the step of introduction, most normal iris enthusiasts do not want to buy an iris because it needs to be developed further. An introduction should be as close to a finished product as possible, which is difficult considering the countless new manipulations iris are proving capable of withstanding.

If you are wondering how I managed to get so high up on a soapbox, I have no grounds for it. No, I do not expect a crop of blooming seedlings of my own to scrutinize this year. In fact, having not yet attained even

apprentice status, if a rule were to be instated requiring judge status in order to introduce, I would not be able to offer my own creations until 2011 (at the earliest) and I would gladly accept that.

That aside, I will be making more crosses this year and I am expecting sprouts this spring. I am even collecting pollen from an Asian crested iris (*Iris japonica*) under lights at the time of writing this so that I can use it in crosses with my garden plants. I expect these attempts to be fruitless, but I will try if it means I could make another type of iris accessible to more gardeners, because the average irisarian did not choose them for grow-lights and houseplants. It has been reassuring to view a recent success online in crossing *I. tectorum* (another crested iris) with a bearded iris.

I have been told that two of the most often overlooked and some of my favorite iris types, pure arils and PCIs, would be virtually impossible to grow in my climate. You would not believe how that inspires me to work with them too! According to their respective chapters in the handbook, I believe the ideas expressed for adaptation are not so far from my own. There is so much more diversity in the iris world yet to be explored than we cannot afford to let pass unnoticed!

In closing I ask, please, introduce what you can only think of with pride and don't ever believe there is a ceiling on the possibilities. I hope that you too are never truly satisfied with the state of introductions. To quote the philosopher Deepak Chopra: "There is no creative impulse in the absence of discontent."

I apologize if my point of view seems harsh, but I am joining the fight to correct the faults I have addressed so that I will apply my advice to my own endeavors as well. Harsh is, however, a word I look forward to associating with my seedling culls. I would gladly accept all advice, criticism, and comments. You can e-mail me at: brockheilman@aol.com. I hope all of you find something truly exceptional in your seedling beds this spring. 

Left: 'Beverly in White' (Harris 94, TB)

Below: 'Raspberry Silk' (Spoon 00, TB)

Bottom: 'Inside Track' (Keppel 02, TB)

All photos this page: G. Spoon



Plicata Locus Color Patterns in Bearded Irises

See story, page 95

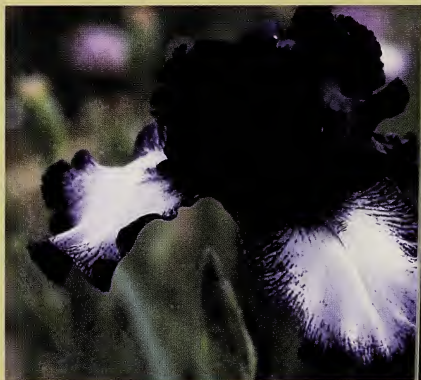


Photo: Bill Poesch



Photo: G. Spoon

Top: 'Autumn Years' (Ensminger 96, TB)

Above: Spoon Sdlg. #2000-172A

Right: 'Tiger Honey' (Kasperek 94, TB)



Photo: Aitken

Growing and selecting Iris in Slovenia

By Izidor Golob, Slovenia

First, would you like to know where Slovenia is located? It is in “the old country in Europe. It is a small independent state, located between Italy and Austria, part of what was formerly Yugoslavia. At the present time Slovenia belongs to the European Union. Here in this country of two million citizens, I grew to love irises, some of which came directly from California or Oregon. I travelled several times to some parts of the USA and I still have friends there and the irises are considered to be the connection between us. Despite the fact that I am really a small grower and hybridizer living in a small country, I think that this short note about gardening from my point of view may be interesting for other AIS members. The bearded irises are my great love, but they are not the only ones. This fascination started in my childhood when I admired two very old cultivars of TBs blooming in my mother’s garden. When later in 1961 I settled in the northeast end of former Yugoslavia, I bought the first rhizomes for our small piece of land. I remember it well; there were ‘**Ola Kala**’ (Sass 43, TB), ‘**High Command**’ (Long 45, TB) and ‘**Eleanor’s Pride**’ (Watkins 52, TB). Then I joined the British Iris Society and the AIS some time later. When I got my first catalogue from Schreiner’s I was really excited! It was extremely difficult for me to order and to buy some newer cultivars from the USA at that time. But I did it! Those were my first steps into the world of irises.

Who am I? I’m an older man, a proud and great father, living in my own family house and have been retired for some years. My wife’s name is Marija (Mary in English) but her nickname is Mojca.



Izidor Golob

The first TB I introduced was named for her. My professional education was as an agricultural engineer and at the end of my career I was employed at a nursery with the responsibility of developing the technology for growing the ornamental plants. In addition to my professional work, I wrote four books on the cultivation and propagation of ornamental plants. My first "iris teacher" from abroad was Dr. Milan Blažek, who introduced me to some prominent personalities in the irisian world. I was invited to be a part of the International Jury in the Florence Competition in 1977 for the first time, where I worked with Dr. Hubert Fisher and Mr. Abell, both from the USA. Later I was elected to be the President of the Jury of Primo Firenze in May 1985 and again in 2005. I was honoured to be a member of the Jury for this competition six different times. Selecting the best irises from a huge palette in the Garden of Societa Italiana dell Iris provided good experience for working with my own crosses. A big help was, and is still, the fact that I maintain relationships with some great people including hybridizers such as Joe Ghio, Brian Dodsworth (United Kingdom), Jean and Richard Cayeux (France) and Graeme Grosvenor (Australia). I am also very proud to have met Dr. Rodionenko from Russia while there in May 1989.

My activities with tall tearded irises are common for small backyard gardening. I grow them for a small local market and know that I will not get to be rich from it. I also take pride and reward in selecting my own seedlings. My nursery serves as my private collection only and not really for commercial use. Besides the more than 480 cultivars of bearded irises (mostly TB and SDB), there are about 260 cultivars of daylilies, some sempervivums and sedum. Additionally, some spuria, Japanese and Siberian irises complete my obsession. The grounds designated to irises are little more than two acres on the sunny slope of a hill. I grow my irises for three or four years

on the same place then rotate them to different beds. The complete collection is not transplanted at once; only part of the garden is moved each year. The weeding is done by hand and sometimes I use herbicides. As for fertilizer I use granular NPK 15:15:15. Late in



'Majska Katleja' (Golob NR, TB)



'Zlata Paleta' (Golob 03, TB)

(which is good for producing grapes, with warm summers and not-too-frosty winters), modern forms and heavy substance, showy colors and great color combinations with good bud count. My newest fascination is the space-agers. Some of my cultivars and seedlings are pictured in this edition of the *Bulletin*. 

the year I mulch the rows and beds with organic compost. This is the only source of humus in the soil.

I have selected and registered at this time 16 cultivars of bearded irises and eight daylilies. My breeding goals include plants with excellent adaptation to the local climate

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DESIGN Huettl Thullot
Associates, Berkeley

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and designers. Landscape projects submitted must have been completed between January 1, 2003, and January 1, 2007. To enter, go to www.sunset.com/gardencontest and click the "Landscape Architects and Designers" link to obtain an entry form. There is a \$25 fee per entry. Entry forms and fees for this division must be postmarked by March 12, 2008. Complete entry materials must be postmarked by April 1, 2008.

Entry Details Mail your entry materials to Sunset Dream Garden Awards, 80 Willow Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025. No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited by law. All federal, state, and local regulations apply. Go to www.sunset.com/gardencontest for complete contest rules.

WINTERBERRY GARDENS INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2008



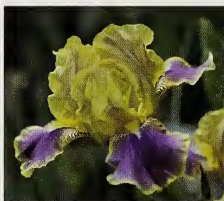
PEACH BOUQUET (SA)



HOME SWEET HOME



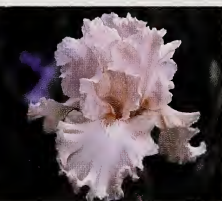
AUTUMN ROSE



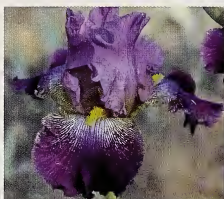
SARI'S DANCE (MTB)



HORIZON BLUE (SDB)



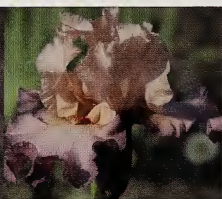
MOONLIGHT ROMANCE



STARRING ENCORE (RE)



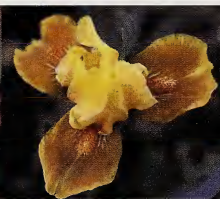
ERIC TILLMAN



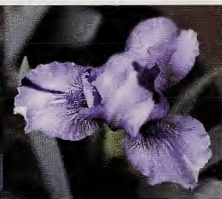
LOVING PINK



AMPERSAND (MDB)



PUFF CANDY (SDB)



PIED PIXIE (SDB)

WINTERBERRY GARDENS INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2008

By Don Spoon, Ginny Spoon, Griffin Crump, Paul Hill, Clarence Mahan, and Dick Sparling

Ampersand (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2001-37B. **MDB**, 6" (15 cm), EM. S. light peachy-orange; style arms same, pinker midribs; F. dark plum (RHS 64B) edged peachy orange, light peachy-orange markings beside the orange (40A) beards; lightly ruffled. 99-103A: (Pele x Candy Corn) X Fairy Lore. \$15.

Arizona Border (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2001-177A. **BB**, 26" (66 cm), M. S. lighter lavender-blue than RHS 95D with darker (93C) midribs; style arms same; F. blue violet (93B) with darker veins; beards lavender blue tipped golden yellow in center and orange deep; flared horizontally, very ruffled and fluted, and crenulated lace on standards and style arms; slight sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. Honky Tonk Blues X Recurring Delight. \$25.

Autumn Rose (G. Spoon). Sdlg. 99-44B. **TB**, 34" (86 cm), M. S. light rose-pink (RHS 63D), veined darker; style arms same, yellowed edges; F. dark rose-pink (64A/C), veined dark raspberry (64A) proximally, veined lighter (63C) distally; beards tangerine; ruffled, lightly laced; slight sweet fragrance. Fertile both ways. Diamond Blush X Chatter. \$35.

Betty Cunningham (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2003-162B. **TB**, 36" (91 cm), EM. S. bright, intense yellow (RHS 7C); style arms similar, darker yellow (7B) on edges of crests; F. richer, intense yellow (7A), lighter zone (7C) around beards crossed by darker veins (7A); beards rich golden-yellow (13A) lighter at end, darker in throat; ruffled, fluted, crenulated and bubble laced; slight spicy fragrance. Fertile both ways. Lilla's Lace X Canary Delight. \$35.

Clayville (D. Sparling). Sdlg. SDB-03-02. **SDB**, 12" (30 cm), M. S. brown tan (RHS 199A); F. brownish tan (199C) with veins (185A to 186A) radiating from beards, and tan purple rib; beards lavender blue tipped yellow and golden yellow deep; ruffled; diamond dusted. Pronounced spicy fragrance. Fresh Start X Chanted. \$15.

Corn Dance (D. Spoon). 2003-163A. **TB**, 36" (92 cm), EM & **RE** (October in zone 6b). S. and style arms greenish yellow (blend of RHS 1B/C/D and 5B/B/D); F. greenish yellow, darkest (1B and 5B blend) at hafts and shoulders, white zone below beards; beards yellow (2A) at end, yellow orange (17A) in middle, darker in throat; ruffled, lightly laced, diamond dusted; buds olive (153C), purple based foliage; slight sweet fragrance. Lilla X Lichen. \$35.

Eric Tillman (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 96-719A. **TB**, 36" (91 cm), ML. S. lavender pink (RHS 73D), medium violet (77B) bases and veins; style arms same with medium violet midribs, old gold edges; F. medium violet, lighter violet (77C) around beards; beards white base with (77B) mid area of each hair, tipped lavender blue at end and middle, tangerine (32A) in throat; ruffled, flared, lightly laced; slight sweet fragrance. Little John X 89-114: (Sweet Musette x Femme Fatale). \$35.

Golden Angel (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 93-20. **TB**, 32" (81 cm), E. Brilliant yellow gold, F. with lighter center; beards deep yellow gold; ruffled, laced; slight fragrance. Vigorous, floriferous landscape iris. Dazzling Lora X Jester. \$25.

Home Sweet Home (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 99-377BL. **TB**, 35" (89 cm), ML. Sky blue self with darker veins and short white spike below yellow beards (RHS 7C); ruffled and flared. Sky and Sun X Stately Art. \$35.

Horizon Blue (D. Spoon). 2000B-307A. **SDB**, 10" (25 cm), ML. S. and style arms light sky-blue, nearly white; F. same, prominent blue-green (RHS 106B) spot dissected by light sky-blue midline, more intense green-blue (117A) around beards and at distal edges; beards white tipped orange in throat; ruffled and flared; slight sweet fragrance. Tropical Blue X Tropical Shoals. \$15.

Lady Baltimore (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 97-60A. **TB**, 38" (97 cm), EM and **RE** (October in zone 6B). S. and style arms light lavender-blue (RHS 92D), S. veined darker; F. violet (88A), more red in centers, lighter on edges; beards lavender blue tipped golden yellow in middle, golden yellow-orange (23A) in throat; ruffled. Born to Exceed X Proud Tradition. \$35.

Logan Mahan (C. Mahan). Sdlg. SP-MTB-982. **MTB**, 26" (66 cm), EM. S. pastel red-toned brown; style arms yellow with brown midribs and crests; F. cream ground with soft red-toned brown plicata dots; beards yellow; slight fragrance. Sand Princess selfed. \$25.

Loving Pink (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 98-106B. **TB**, 35" (89 cm), ML. S. baby ribbon pink (RHS 50D); style arms (50C); F. lavender-tinted baby ribbon pink (50D) darkening of lavender toward edges; beards white tipped bright red (50A); ruffled, flared, lightly laced; slight sweet fragrance. Pink Design X My Ginny. \$35.

Mendon (D. Sparling). Sdlg. SDB-03-01. **SDB**, 12" (30 cm), M. Greenish tan (RHS 160D) self; style arms tinged lavender blue darker at midribs; F. have brown to yellow veins, bluish wash, and yellow-green (153C) hafts; beards medium lavender-blue tipped lighter; diamond dusted; ruffled. Fresh Start X Chanted. \$15.

CONTINUED WINTERBERRY GARDENS INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2008

Moonlight Romance (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 97-182A. **TB**, 34" (86 cm), ML. S. and style arms peach pink (blend of RHS 27 and 38D), more peach (38D) in centers; F. peach pink, darker (27A) at hafts, veined darker (39B); beards white tipped peach (32D) at end, (32C) in middle, orange red (32B) in throat; ruffled, fluted, laced; slight sweet fragrance. Pink Moon X Funny Girl. \$35.

Morningstar Blues (P. Hill). Sdlg. 3200-HI. **IB**, 24" (61 cm), EM. S. white ground marked with dark grape plicata veining, dotting, and center stripe. F. white ground washed a light yellow that fades with time and dark grape plicata veining and dotting covering 3/8" edge all around; thin stripe of dark grape extends from beard to edge of falls. Beard an unusual coloring of medium cobalt blue tipped dark brown. Round ruffled petals and straight upright stalks with two branches and 5 buds. Best seedling at C&P spring show. Chubby Cheeks X Fancy Woman. \$25.

Peach Bouquet (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 95-273A. **TB, SA**, 36" (91 cm), L. S. light peach-pink, baby ribbon pink (RHS 49C & D) centers; style arms light peach-pink, deeper peach (32D) on edges; F. very light peach-pink, deeper peach (32D) hafts; beards light peach-pink grading to tangerine in throat, very light peach-pink upturned and laced flounces; ruffled, laced; slight sweet fragrance. Colleen's Dreamsicle X 93-44: (89-114: (Sweet Musette x Femme Fatale) x 90-146: (Orien x Romantic Mood)). \$35.

Petite Violette (G. Crump). Sdlg. 20C11. **BB**, 19" (48 cm), L. Lavender, F. with deeper center, slight brown gold haft, faint white blaze below orange yellow beards. Summer Olympics X Lumalite. \$25.

Pied Pixie (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 98-71A. **SDB**, 11" (28 cm), ML. S. lavender blue (RHS 97B) with yellow green (152D) wash, style arms same with darker lavender-blue midlines; F. lavender blue with yellow green beside the darker lavender-blue (94 A/B) beards, yellow tipped deep in throat; variegated flowers with periodic white and violet (86A) splashes in standards and falls; diamond dusted; lightly ruffled and flared. Robin's Egg X Little Bluetts. \$15.

Pooh's Dream (G. Crump) Sdlg. 20W10. **TB**, 37" (94 cm), EM. S. light honey, edges darker, umber basal infusion; style arms light honey, darker edges; F. deep honey, umber shoulders, brighter area below umber beard, lighter center vein. Winesap X Opportunity. \$35.

Puff Candy (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 97-643. **SDB**, 14" (36 cm), ML. S. and style arms yellow orange (RHS 21D); F. orange spot (29A), yellow orange (21B) border, midline, and marks beside white beards tipped red-orange (41A); slight spicy fragrance; slightly ruffled and flared. Orange Tiger X Desert Orange. \$15.

Sari's Dance (G. Spoon). Sdlg. 2003-G17A. **MTB**, 19" (48 cm), ML. S. and style arms an old gold yellow, a blend of yellow green (RHS 153D) and yellow (9C); F. medium lavender-violet (84A) with old gold yellow borders, midline, and areas around yellow orange (22A) beards; ruffled and flared; no fragrance; drought resistant foliage. Fertile both ways. Butterfly Dance X Maslon. \$25.

Spice It Up (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2001-169A. **TB**, 35" (89 cm), ML. Maroon self and beards; distinctive light blue stamens; velvety sheen; ruffled; drought resistant foliage; very vigorous; slight spicy fragrance. Guinervere's Kiss X 98-357A: (Swingtown x Gypsy Romance). \$35.

Starring Encore (D. Spoon). Sdlg. 2003-119A. **TB**, 35" (89 cm), EM and **RE** (October in zone 6b). S. raspberry (RHS 86 C/D) with bases blended golden yellow; style arms edged golden yellow with raspberry crests and midlines; F. distal 2/3 plum purple (77A) with lighter edges, basal 1/3 sun spray of cream grading to yellow at hafts with maroon (183C) veins; beards golden yellow and yellow orange (23A) deep; ruffled, laced style crests; lightly laced standards and falls; sweet buckwheat fragrance. Daughter of Stars X Starring. \$35.

Stealth Fighter (G. Crump). Sdlg. 20H9. **TB**, 34" (86 cm), L and **RE** (October in zone 7a, November in 6b). S. deep purple; style arms purple; F. velvety black overlay on red violet; beards deep purple; ruffled, flared. Titan's Glory X G95W2: (Holy Night x Sweeter Than Wine). \$35.

That Certain Something (G. Crump). Sdlg. 983012. **TB**, 38" (97 cm), VL. S. and style arms soft reddish plum; F. deeper reddish plum, velvety; beards bronze; ruffled. Robe of Royalty X 954A5: (Chief Quinaby x 93PP4: (Dusky Dancer x Wabash)). \$35.

To order from this advertisement send check or money order to Winterberry Gardens, 1225 Reynolds Road, Cross Junction, VA 22625-1726 or call 540-888-4447 for VISA or MASTERCARD order. Make suggestions for extras. Add \$10 for shipping. Send \$5 for descriptive catalog with color pages. E-mail vspoon@aol.com.

A Note from the AIS Librarian

By Tracy Plotner, Oregon

Our reference library grows with new materials every few months. Thanks go to Jim and Vicki Craig, Roger Mazur, and Jerry Oswalt for the most recent donations. Your thoughts and consideration for the library are so greatly appreciated.

The library is a repository of articles, newsletters, awards, and books about and from iris people from all realms of the iris world. This is why it is so extremely important that your club send newsletters to the library whenever printed. Someday, somewhere, someone might need or want to know about information in that publication.

As a recent example, some of the information gained for the 50th Anniversary Median Iris publication was gleaned from materials in the library. Information for a future publication containing history of the Dwarf Iris Society is being written at this time.

Our library likes to keep two copies of most items. It's not a problem if you happen to donate books or materials that the library already has. The excess materials are donated to the AIS Silent Auction held yearly at the convention. In that way these materials help support the library in supplies such as copy paper, ink, and postage as well as give the opportunity for other AIS members to purchase them.

It is your reference library – please help support it by donating materials of interest.

Contact:

Tracy Plotner

AIS Library

P.O. Box 250

Molalla, OR 97038-0250

aislibrary@molalla.net 

2008 INTRODUCTIONS, David and Anna Cadd



Cadds Beehive Iris Garden

329 North Street, Healdsburg, Ca 95448

Phone: 707-433-8633, E-mail: caddsis@comcast.net

Arctic Unicorn: (Cadds 2008). TB. 40" -42" (102-105 cm). Mid-season to Late. Lightly ruffled and laced white with the whisper of light blue. Beards: Yellow, tipped orange, ending in white bluish horns and sometimes flounces. Pronounced sweet fragrance. Very nice grower, 7-9 buds. Standing out in the garden! Romantic Mood x Lady Madonna. Sdlg: 183-93-3 \$35.00

Blue Ghost: (Cadds 2008). TB. 40" -42" (102-105 cm). Mid-season to Late. Lightly ruffled and laced silvery light blue. Beard white, tipped yellow. Romantic Mood x Lady Madonna. Sdlg: 183-93-3. Very floriferous, with 7-10 buds. Sibling to Arctic Unicorn. \$35.00

Love Is Pink: (Cadds 2008). TB. 40" -42" (102-105 cm). Early to Mid-season. Standards and Style arms: Extremely laced and ruffled light pink with the touch of peach. Falls: Extremely laced light pink with touch of peach on shoulders. Beards: 1/3 light pink, 2/3 deep mango orange. Pronounced sweet fragrance. All terminals and some on branches are with triple sockets, 12 to 16 flowers per stalk! The petals with good substance are covered with delicate sparkling silvery dust. Elegant Girl x April in Paris. Sdlg: 16-2000-1 \$35.00

Political Zoo: (Cadds 2008). TB. 38" -40" (97-102 cm). Mid-season. Standards: Deep yellow gold with the red-violet line on midrib. Style arms: Deep yellow gold. Falls: Reddish - purple with the darker overtones, pronounced white shoulder markings on shoulders and around the mustard gold beard. Pronounced spicy fragrance. Elegant; tailored flowers, good grower with 8-10 buds per stalk. Popular with the garden visitors! Edith Wolford x Wild Berry Sdlg: 8-99-1 \$35.00

Purple Madness: (Cadds 2008). TB. 38" -40" (97-102 cm). Mid-season. Standards: Deep violet purple with the metallic sheen. Style arms: Deep violet purple. Falls: Deep violet purple with brown shoulders and a small lighter area around the deep violet purple beard. Pronounced sweet fragrance. Elegant; tailored flowers, good grower with 8-10 buds per stalk. Dusky Challenger x Purple People Eater. Sdlg: # 6-98-1 \$35.00

Air Affair: (Cadds 2008). SPU. 38" -40" (97-101 cm). Mid-season. Standards: Deep violet purple, with lighter area lined yellow at base. Style arms: Creamy violet purple. Falls: Creamy white with deep violet purple tiny border and color diffusing from the border toward the center of the falls, blending with small yellow diffused signal and pronounced deep yellow central line. Velvety texture of falls. 5-6 buds, very floriferous, with nice, upright leaves. Flowers are lightly ruffled, with wide standards and falls. Blue Lassie x Social Lady. Sdlg: SPU 8-91-8 \$15.00

Angelic Snowflake: (Cadds 2008). SPU. 38" -40" (97-101 cm). Mid-season. Standards: White with the touch of cream in center, ruffled. Style arms: White, with the touch of cream in center at midrib. Falls: White, with the darker diffused gold signal in center, spreading in rays' pattern. Flowers are extremely ruffled, with wide standards and falls. 5-6 buds, very floriferous, with nice, upright leaves. Marilyn Holloway x Candle Lace. Sdlg: SPU 18-91-4B \$15.00

Star Spell: (Cadds 2008) SPU. 38" -40" (97-101 cm). Mid-season. Standards: Deep lemon yellow. Style arms: Creamy yellow. Falls: Deep lemon yellow. Mid-size Spuria. 5-6 buds, very floriferous, with nice, upright leaves. Flowers are ruffled, with wide standards and falls. Golden Lady x ? Sdlg: SPU 11-91-3 \$15.00

Under The Rainbow: (Cadds 2008). SPU. 40" -42" (101-104 cm). Mid-season Standards: Pastel blend of creamy yellow and light lavender blue on edges, ruffled. Style arms: Creamy white. Falls: Very ruffled yellow with small lavender border and darker yellow signal. 6-7 buds, very floriferous, with nice, upright or slightly curved leaves. Flowers are extremely ruffled, with wide standards and falls. Marilyn Holloway x Candle Lace. Sdlg: # SPU 18-91-1 \$15.00

HAROLD L. STAHLY

8343 Manchester Dr., Grand Blanc MI 48439

<hlstahly@umich.edu>

2008 INTRODUCTIONS OF EVELYN ROBARTS & HAL STAHLY. The Stahly introductions are named for three great kids, our granddaughters.

ALLIE SUNSHINE (Stahly '08) BB, M, 23" This very well proportioned BB is a smooth pink self (RHS 56A) with red beards (41A). Flowers are of correct size for its 23" height, and the foliage is BB height and width. There are 2 or 3 branches and terminal, 5-7 buds. Flowers are well formed and nicely ruffled, plant vigorous. Sdlg. 004: Pink Bubbles X Proxy..... \$25.00

COOL KATE (Stahly '08) IB, E, 24" Standards and style arms are light blue (RHS 92C), falls slightly deeper (92B). Beards are pale blue near white. This vigorous plant has beautifully formed flowers with wide parts very ruffled. Stalks have 2 branches, usually 5 buds. Flowers have moderate sweet fragrance. Sdlg. 0201: Wrangler X Northern Mist \$25.00

TRAIL SCOUT (Robarts '08) TB SA, M, 36" Standards are light blue (RHS 91 C), slightly darker at base. Falls are a little lighter blue (91D). Beards are a bit deeper blue (91B) and end with a 1" flounce of the same color, held semi-erect. Flowers are semi-flared, well formed, and heavily ruffled. Good branching. Sdlg. 97-38-1: Thornberry X Butterfly House.....\$40.00

WIZ LIZ (Stahly '08) TB, M-L, 37" Standards and falls are a very bright orange gold color (RHS 17B), center of falls slightly lighter (17C). Beards are orange red (33B). Well branched stalks carry 7-9 beautiful ruffled blooms. The flowers are eye-catching and perky. Sdlg. 0106: Orange Slices X Celtic Glory sib..... \$40.00

Please include \$6.00 for shipping.

Price list of some past introductions available on request.

AIIS Calendar:

CONVENTIONS

2008: April 14-19

Austin, TX
 Chairs: Jim Landers
 710 North 11th
 Temple, TX 76501-3016
 (254) 773-5017
jimlanders43@hotmail.com

and: Pat Byrne
 (281) 391-6190
patb1@consolidated.net
 Headquarters:
 Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark
 4140 Governor's Row
 Austin, TX 78744
 (512) 383-2621

2009: May 11-16

Kansas City, MO
 Chair: Debora Hughes
 3395 Utah Road
 Wellsville, KS 66092
 (785) 883-4737
dhughes936@myvine.com
 Headquarters:
 Doubletree Hotel Overland Park
 10100 College Boulevard
 Overland Park, KS 66210
 (913) 451-6100

2010: May 31-June 5

Madison, WI
 Chairman: John Baker
 4601 CTH TT
 Sun Prairie, WI 53590
 (608) 825-7423

2012: Apr 16-21

Ontario, CA
 Host: Region 15

FALL BOARD MEETINGS

2007: Nov 2-4

Raleigh-Durham, NC
 Chair: Susan Grigg
 105 Trotters Ridge Road
 Raleigh, NC 27614
 (919) 870-8345
irismom@nc.rr.com
 Headquarters:
 Wyndham Raleigh Durham
 Research Triangle Park
 4620 S. Miami Blvd.
 Durham, NC 27703
 (919) 941-6066

2008: Oct 31 - Nov 2

Las Vegas, NV
 Chair: Mary lee Fortner
 3337 Ascona Street
 Lass Vegas, NV 89129
 (702) 228-0827
mybasket@cox.net

2009: Nov 6 - 8

Tulsa, OK
 Chair: Paul W. Gossett
 129 East 33rd Place
 Tulsa, OK 74105-2542
 (918) 742-1204
pwgossett@juno.com

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Portland, OR
 Chair: Terry Aitken
 608 NW 119th Street
 Vancouver, WA 98685-3802
 (360) 573-4472
terry@flowerfantasy.net

Cultivating irises is as much an art as it is a science. The practices we employ in our gardens are a function of our collective knowledge gleaned from years of experience. Thanks to the help of irisarians from around the country, we've compiled this segment to give you ideas, insights, or suggestions on how to better grow the plants we so dearly love.

Starting with the Basics

Everette Lineberger, South Carolina

I have been planting bearded irises in the same bed in my Zone 7b garden, about 6 feet wide and 40 feet long, for the past 28 years. Actually, in the last 20+ years it has become more like 90 feet long. I'm convinced there are three things which have made this bed successful: 1) the irises are dug, divided, and reset every other year 2) I try to keep the pH level at about 6.5, adding lime to our acidic soil when the soil is renovated, and using two thirds 10-10-10 with trace elements and one third gypsum as the fertilizer of choice the first year (Allan Ensminger's recipe) and 3) tilling in ground alfalfa meal when the soil is prepared.

Pests in the Iris Garden

Rose Kinnard, Missouri

I do not like to use a lot of chemicals on my garden but I do use Preen® in March when tilling and again in June. During the heat of the summer anytime I disturb the soil I will add additional preen to prevent weed sprouting.

For leaf spot management I have used a variety of things; a heavy dusting of lime in the fall seems to be the most effective. Some seasons there seem to be many more aphids than others and they seem to contribute to leaf spot spread. I prefer to use Sevin® spray for this problem as long as the irises are not yet in bloom. However, Sevin® spray and bees do not mix. If I have an aphid infestation during bloom season, I just walk the rows daily and clean the leaves with a damp cloth and bleach solution.

During mid- to late summer the worst insect problem I have is mole crickets. They can chew some impressive holes into large rhizomes and cause rot problems. Sevin® spray is also very effective for management of the crickets. I prefer to encourage a large lizard population for management of the crickets by maintaining areas that protect and encourage lizards stay close to the garden. Small rock piles and mulch in shaded areas make excellent places for lizards to live.

For root or soft rot problems, I use bleach or Fire Blight Spray made by ferti-lome®. It is very effective for clumps with extensive rot.

I keep a two gallon sprayer set up all summer and try to catch rot before it becomes a real problem. Keeping in mind that any chemical used can pose a hazard to the user, wear gloves, avoid inhaling fumes, and only use the minimum required to do the job.

Soft Rot & Scorch

Paul Gossett, Oklahoma

Gardening in Tulsa in the northeastern part of Oklahoma can be very difficult at times with the variance of weather conditions. One day we can be at 70 degrees and the next at 30 degrees. The plants have to endure the conditions to survive. We also get very strong winds blowing down the plains, so the bloom stalks must be strong enough to stand and not have to be staked.

The main problems we have growing irises are with soft rot from all of the heavy rains, scorch, and sometimes infestation of aphids. I have very sandy soil because I live a half block from the Arkansas River. I must try not to over fertilize bearded irises as this will definitely cause problems in the garden. I try to keep the beds clean, do not over fertilize, and spray with an insecticide early in the spring to prevent insects from invading my plants.

We do not have borers in Tulsa like you find north of us and I have never seen rust on any of my plants like sometimes occurs further south and on the west coast. Leaf spot does not occur when we have too much rain and when the garden is not kept clean. I try to spray with fungicide and soap when it does occur though.

Disaster Proofing the Iris Garden

Betty Wilkerson, Kentucky

My rebloom breeding program began, in part, because I want to see tall bearded irises in bloom for more than three weeks each year. I've found a year without bloom to be both depressing and unacceptable. It would be a disaster if I go another year without iris bloom!

How did the combination of an April freeze and the drought of 2007 affect my garden practices? I bought more soaker hoses! My beds are fifty foot long to facilitate the use of these hoses. I prefer the round version, since they keep the foliage dry while directing the water to the roots. This system greatly reduces my water bill thus justifying the cost of the hoses. All seedlings and re-selects, most rebloomers, and some of the breeder beds now have soaker hoses.

The Labor Day weekend is an important date on my gardening schedule. This is my deadline for applying fertilizer. Supplemental watering is also suspended in established beds. The plants need time to toughen up before the first freeze, which could arrive in six weeks. Soft growth invites damage and injury. Although we often have a late freeze

with fall bloom extending into the Thanksgiving Holiday, the first freeze can arrive around mid-October.

A Defense against Deer Damage to Your Garden

David Schmieder, Massachusetts

When I researched Deer Stopper, an organic spray that can be used on deer-vulnerable plants on the Internet, I found it was produced by a company called Messina Wildlife Management (www.messinawildlife.com). I was surprised to find that the company had also developed a system called PLOTSAYER to control where deer go, originally intended for use by people who raise deer. While Deer Stopper is fine for protecting a small number of valued plants, the cost would be prohibitive when dealing with acres of them. I used the website to order a starter kit of PLOTSAYER. The kit contains a pint of concentrated repellent together with an 850 foot spool of very strong, half-inch wide woven tape, which is to be strung 30" above ground level, completely enclosing the plot to be protected.

The tape is available in black or white. For application use three ounces of concentrate in a 30 ounce container with water. It is then a long walk in the park to spray the tape, but a once-a-month application seems to work. Not one deer set foot inside the enclosure in five months! Later I discovered that the PLOTSAYER system became ineffective during freezing weather when the tape became coated with ice. Grazing deer stop for no one!

Getting Tough on Irises

Laurie Frazer, Minnesota

Iris gardening can be quite challenging in the frigid north. In northern Minnesota where temperatures range from -25 °F or colder in the winter to 90 °F or warmer in the summer, and where irises are consumed by everything from borers to deer, we need irises that can survive it all. The first key to success is iris selection. In my garden, the strongest survivors tend to be the dwarf and median bearded and various beardless types (Siberian, *I. versicolor*, *I. setosa*, *I. pseudacorus*). Some TBs can hack it here, but many have failed for me over the last 12 years.

Although I'm sure I could increase iris survival during the occasionally snowless winters by mulching with evergreen boughs, I choose not to do so because my ongoing goal is to develop an iris collection capable of handling my difficult climate without coddling. That is also the reason why I do not treat for rot. Weak, susceptible irises are welcome to die here. I do however keep my iris beds clear of borers by applying

imidacloprid granules early each spring as the irises are breaking dormancy and beginning growth. I also completely remove all of the previous season's iris foliage in early spring as prevention against borers.

Deer are a more difficult pest to deter. I have a dense deer population in my area that will invade my iris beds and graze fans down to the soil line in early spring before their natural browse leafs out and again in fall after their browse has defoliated for the winter. Even during periods when the deer are not inclined to graze the irises, they can do substantial damage by slicing rhizomes with their sharp hooves or mashing them tightly and deeply into my clay soil, leaving the plants vulnerable to rot infections. I have substantially reduced, but not eliminated, deer traffic through my primary iris beds by erecting fences around them with 4' tall chicken wire. Although deer can easily jump a 4' fence (and occasionally do), they generally just walk around the outside now. I tried deer netting, but the deer simply pushed through it. Chicken wire is at least as strong to prevent them from pushing through, and tent spikes prevent them from scooting under.

The Ease of Louisiana Irises

Robert Treadway, Arkansas

Here in heavy clay and humid conditions in Zone 7b, many bearded irises are a real challenge. Raised beds here are almost a necessity. Yet the Louisiana irises are a breeze for the most part and grow in almost any condition. I prefer lined beds to conserve on water, and believe in ample water and fertilizer. Applications of organic matter help keep the plants fed between applications of liquid fertilizer and helps build the organic matter in the soil. Cotton seed meal and alfalfa pellets are a favorite here. Mulch is great to protect the rhizomes and soil unless one has voles.

Encouraging Rebloom in a Short Growing Season

Mary Swann-Young, Indiana

Living in Zone 5 near Indianapolis, I use the following schedule for encouraging rebloom during my short growing season. In mid-March I broadcast granular fertilizer 6-24-24 around the perimeter of the iris clumps. On April 1st, 15th, and May 1st I spray with quarter-strength Miracle-Gro® mixed with imidacloprid (Bayer Advanced™ Garden Tree & Shrub Insect Control) at a rate of 10 fluid ounces per five gallons. On May 15th and June 30th I spray fungicide on and around cultivars susceptible to fungal leaf spot. All brands I've tried work here. June is also the time to thin, transplant, and reset rebloomers as early as possible so they are well-established before fall. Try to sever as few roots as possible and do not let them dry out. When replanting in depleted ground, mix in at least 1/3 compost and a handful of 6-24-24 with a

sprinkling of triple phosphate. Set with at least eight inches between rhizomes and water in well, firming the soil. Most do not need their foliage trimmed back and will "grab the ground" and take right off. I water my rebloomers supplementally throughout the growing season in the evenings to provide 1" per week. An extra spraying of Miracle-Gro® is given at the first sign of a rebloom stalk. In mid-August I provide an extra inch of water with Miracle-Gro® at full strength to expected rebloomers when the forecast hints at cooler days ahead. If a killing frost or freeze is in the forecast, I'd recommend cutting all stalks.

Ordering Irises

M.D. Faith, Arkansas

I am often asked, *"When we order from mail-order companies, they sometimes ask us when we would like to receive our shipments. What is the best time to receive bearded irises? How about beardless irises?"*

You ought to take delivery of bearded iris as early as possible if you plan to start them in containers. After potting wait until they are in strong growth before setting in the garden. Place the containers in a shady place, and keep moist but not wet until growth starts. Then gradually move them into more sunlight as growth progresses. Depending on the grower and his shipping schedule, this will be in July and August.

If you plan to set directly into the garden in prepared beds take delivery in mid-September to mid-October. Hopefully by this time the summer heat is broken and the early fall rains have begun. In any event the beds must be uniformly moist, but not wet, and kept that way until growth has started or the fall rains take over the job of supplying moisture.

Beardless iris, specifically the Louisiana iris, Siberian iris, and Japanese iris should be treated as I described above for bearded iris when set directly in the garden. The exception is they should be in well-prepared, depressed beds and be supplied with more water. The commercial growers of these irises will not normally ship until September and some not until in October. Those commercial growers of iris who ship plants grown in containers, of course, will generally ship when you request the shipment to be made. Some of the other growers, if you make a special request, will ship at your stated specified time.

Beardless iris, as a matter of caution, will benefit from being started in containers and grown there until lush vigorous growth is well advanced. It is good practice to start all iris in containers if you have the time since you can hold them in isolation until you see if they are diseased, or most especially if they have rot. My practice has all ways been to handle the very expensive new introductions this way. 

The Quest for a Yellow Japanese Iris

By John White, Maine

It all started in 2000 with 'Aichi-no-Kagayaki' (Osugi/SJI '62, SPEC-X), a sterile Pseudata with yellow streaking in the leaves and a 3.5-4" medium yellow flower. I thought if I could induce or convert it to a tetraploid it was worth a try. I took a small piece of the plant and put in a glass of .05% colchicine for five days in the refrigerator at 42-43 degrees to keep the plant dormant. It survived the treatment and I planted it in the garden and it grew well that summer.

The next year, 2001, the plant still had the yellow streaking in the leaves, and it put up a bloom stalk with a bud which bloomed out white, the same size as when it was yellow. The anthers had about 10% tetraploid pollen, all of which was sterile. I decided to take a piece of that treated plant and treat it again with colchicine for seven days in the refrigerator. I forgot all about it until the tenth day though I had written down when to take it out of the fridge. The leaves were all shriveled up and the roots did not look any better. It certainly looked like it was dead. Despite the odds, I planted it out in the garden in a seven-inch pot. Three weeks later a little green leaf came up and it looked like a JI. Two weeks later another leaf came up followed a week later by two more leaves. Several emerged thereafter. When the leaves were six inches high there was no yellow streaking in the leaves; maybe a hint of progress. The plant grew to about 15 inches high in 2002. It survived the next winter and in 2003 it grew to 20 inches high, but did not put up a bloom stalk. I had removed the plant from the pot that spring and planted it in the middle of the garden where it would receive full sunlight.

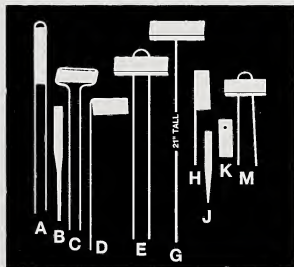
In 2004 it put up a bloom stalk with two flower buds on the stalk and one on a branch. Just after the 4th of July the first flower on the main stalk opened in the afternoon, too early to make a cross that day, so I tied the flower up to make the cross the next morning. When I opened the flower up that morning there was a lot of pollen on the stamen. I removed the petals so the bees would not get at it and took the stamen to the house and placed it under my big microscope that has micrometer and checked the pollen. Ten percent of the pollen was 8-10 microns, 80% was 10-14 microns, and the rest 14-16 microns; a tetraploid. What luck!

I then selfed the flower. The cross took. When the other two flowers

opened I selfed them as well and all three set seed pods. I collected about 100 seeds from them. In 2005, I lined out 95 seedlings from that cross and they grew well. Then disaster struck in the spring of 2006. We lost our snow cover in mid-January after two big rain storms which was followed by bitter cold with temperatures 0 to 20 below every night for a month. The frost went five feet deep and thousands of septic systems froze up all over the state, including mine. I have never seen such frost heaving as we had that spring. Three year old JIs were lifted 6-8 inches out of the ground and only 20 seedlings remained of the 95 planted.

Sixteen of those plants bloomed in 2007, 12 with three falls and four with six falls. I crossed two of the three-fall plants and a three- and six-fall, and I collected and planted 124 seeds from those crosses. These seeds now have yellow on both sides and as Andy Wheeler said when he was here just before Christmas "It is a numbers game now." These plants are my T3 generation. The T2 plants look exactly like any other JI in the garden with no sign of any *I. pseudacorus* in them. The flowers are 7.5 inches and are true *I. ensata* flowers. I am now in the eighth year of this project and it will be another two years or so before I know what we get. I may have to wait until I am a hundred before I know. If that's what it takes that is what I will do. 🌿

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A Germination Experiment

By Kelly D. Norris, Iowa

Introduction

I am deeply indebted to the instructor of my seed science class a couple of semesters ago for imparting upon me a deep interest in seed science. Even before fully acknowledging that I was innately a plant breeder, I loved planting seeds and raising seedlings. Each spring our basement was home to my germination and propagation experiments. One year when I was a teenager it was a cultivar trial of lupines. Another year it was an escapade with heirloom morning glories. But recently the basement has been phased out for a small greenhouse and cold frame and now little pots with numbered tags seem to abound.

Ever on a quest to achieve the highest germination possible from my crosses, I launched a series of trials last winter based on my synthesis of a multitude of observations gleaned from exchanges on the iris@hort.net listserve. The general hypothesis I tested was that seeds collected in late summer could be germinated uniformly and rapidly, the definition of seed vigor in seed science circles, after a 7-8 week period of cold stratification. Over the last year I have explored additional modifications of the hypothesis and can say tentatively that the methods detailed herein offer hope of a solution for those who have struggled with germination of bearded iris seeds using traditional methods.

Background Information

Before detailing the experiments it might be helpful to equip the discussion with a basic understanding of why difficulties in germination can occur and some of the basic principles of seed physiology.

A brief dialogue about my breeding program will elucidate why germination using traditional methods has been largely unsuccessful for me. Simply put, I make wide crosses and lots of them. Genetically speaking, you can expect poor germination from a scenario like this. Wide crosses are those crosses that involve parents of markedly different genetic compositions. They involve the combination of multiple genomes or significantly different portions of the same species' genome (as is the case in bearded irises). Because of this, wide crosses do not always yield a viable seed. The list of possible explanations includes but is not limited to chromosomal aberrations, failure of endospermic tissue to develop, or the lack of development of viable embryos.

Tall bearded irises are reported in The World of Irises to vary significantly in first year germination rates; five percent to 90 percent is reported as is a range of germination over one to 15 years. With a discussion of genetics excluded, poor seed germination can result from a plethora of dormancy factors. Dormancy is a fascinating subject and is classified in a variety of ways based on ambient environmental conditions, intrinsic characteristics of the seed, and timing of seed dispersal in relation to the environment, to name a few. It is readily known that dormancy in irises can be overcome by cold stratification, presuming the seed is of a fit genetic condition to grow normally in the first place. Cold stratification involves the imbibition or hydration of the seed in the presence of cold temperatures. Temperature or imbibition alone will not suffice the seed in preparation for germination. Both must be present.

Methods

When iris breeders tackle seed germination issues, it is primarily a quest to overcome dormancy, though in wide cross scenarios genetic ineptitude cannot be ruled out. The equipment and facilities necessary to ascertain this information places it out of the reach of most breeders. This lays the premise that our experiments are founded on the idea of overcoming dormancy factors, though in the end genetic complications may provide the most satisfactory answer to our difficulties.

Trial 1

In late January 2007, seeds from two crosses were separated into three lots and planted. The seeds were harvested in early August 2006 and were stored at room temperature (~70 °F) until planting. The seeds were imbibed for one week at room temperature prior to sowing. Imbibition was maintained by barely submerging the seeds in a baby food jar. Water was allowed to evaporate over the course of the week leaving little or no water in the jar at the time of planting. Prior to planting, the seeds were also chipped at a point distal to the hilum scar (point of attachment of the seed to the ovary), revealing the endosperm. Cross 34-061 was split into two pots prior to planting with a) one pot placed in a 40 °F refrigerator and b) one pot placed in a 72 °F greenhouse for the duration of the trial. The latter pot served as the control group. Cross 26-061 was subjected to the same treatment as 34-061a. It served as an outgroup to evaluate the effect of the method on a cross not involving 'Abbey Chant' or 'Let's Boogie'. Crosses 34-061a and 26-061 remained in the refrigerator for eight weeks and were removed in mid-March 2007 to the same greenhouse bench as 34-061b. The crosses and the number of seeds planted are as follows:

26-061	'Fancy Woman' X Unknown	15 seeds (outgroup)
34-061a	'Abbey Chant' x 'Let's Boogie'	14 seeds
34-061b	'Abbey Chant' x 'Let's Boogie'	14 seeds (control)

Trial 2

In early August 2007, three crosses were harvested within one week of each other. After all three crosses had been collected the seeds were imbibed and chipped as in trial 1. All three crosses were planted and placed in a 40 °F refrigerator in late August. The pots were removed in late October and placed in a 72 °F greenhouse for the duration of the trial. The three crosses and the number of seeds planted are as follows:

16-071	'Symphony of Light' X 'Passaparola'	5 seeds
18-071	'Dotted Doll' X 'Conjuration'	21 seeds
20-071	'Trade Secret' X 'Passaparola'	21 seeds

Results & Discussion

Germination from the respective trials is as follows:

Trial 1

26-061	'Fancy Woman' X Unknown	0 seeds or 0% (outgroup)
34-061a	'Abbey Chant' X 'Let's Boogie'	12 seeds or 86%
34-061b	'Abbey Chant' X 'Let's Boogie'	1 seeds or 7% (control)

Trial 2

16-071	'Symphony of Light' X 'Passaparola'	1 seed or 20%
18-071	'Dotted Doll' X 'Conjuration'	8 seeds or 38%
20-071	'Trade Secret' X 'Passaparola'	7 seeds or 33%

First, none of these trials involve a large enough sample group to yield statistically relevant results. A larger trial with additional replications will be conducted to evaluate the reproducibility of the data and its statistic relevance. Yet the raw numbers are intriguing. Especially intriguing is the fact that 100% of the germination observed in Trial 1 occurred within one week after the pot was placed in the greenhouse. Rapid and uniform emergence of seeds is not something that most iris breeders think about when planning crosses, if I had to venture a guess. But in agronomic species, rapid and uniform emergence is paramount. Qualitative observations from breeders I've talked with have associated particular phenotypic traits with poor germination. It may be worth considering that selecting for rapid, uniform seedling emergence could be a powerful selection tool in the seedling patch. Cross 34-061a and 34-061b also demonstrate what we already know about iris seeds: they need cold stratification in order to germinate.

The lower percentage of germinants in Trial 2 could suggest that a maturity period is necessary for iris seeds, similar to that in soybeans

or thistles. While Trial 2 involved relatively fresh seed, it also involved crosses with a great deal of breadth. Several replications of Trial 2 would be needed before a guesstimate could be made as to whether the low germination is related to seed dormancy issues or genetic issues. At any rate it reinforces the notion that crosses should be replicated in as great a quantity as the breeder is willing to allot space for. As in Trial 1, germination occurred very rapidly with 100% occurring in two weeks after being placed into the greenhouse.

Regardless of the limited data on germinability, the seedlings that germinated were raised to "transplant size" in a greenhouse with daytime temperatures of 75 °F and 60 °F nights. Seedlings were then transferred to a cool greenhouse (58/50 °F) and are presently being fertilized weekly with Excel® liquid fertilizer solution at a rate of 175 ppm nitrogen (a standard program for herbaceous ornamental crops). Transplanting into larger containers will have occurred by the end of March with hopes of achieving some bloom by the traditional iris bloom season.

For purposes of salience, I've condensed the discussion to what appears here. If you are interested in additional details, results, or information, I would welcome your discussion at kellydn@frontiernet.net. 

2008 INTRODUCTIONS

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The Case for Separating Two Key Components of Judging Irises

By Richard C. Richards

For the record, I am trained in and have taught courses in philosophical aesthetics at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. I have tried to look at how aesthetic good taste is developed in different fields, how judgments of excellence are supported, and to see the similarities in how great works of art are identified in such divergent endeavors as painting, sculpture, music, and architecture. The reasons people give to support judgments of aesthetic merit continue to intrigue me the more I investigate these claims.

Dr. Jack Finney has asked me to expand on the need to separate the task of identifying decent irises from the job of seeing what outstandingly beautiful irises are.

In the simplest terms, we are really evaluating two things when we try to distinguish great irises. One is what I call "gardenability." Will the plant grow, reproduce, and give the requisite number of flowers at least annually? In short, is it a decent or acceptable iris? The other is the aesthetic appeal of the flower considered either with or independently of the rest of the plant, or put more simply, its beauty. A decent iris from the perspective of gardenability and production is not necessarily a beautiful iris, though. It could grow vigorously, have the proper ratio of stalks to rhizomes and flowers to stalks, put out sequential buds, and still be as ugly as an infected toenail, or as average as a hot day in August.

Grading

Identifying decent irises involves the task of grading. The clearest case I have seen studied is the grading of apples. To be a super grade apple, an apple must meet all of the conditions regarding such things as size, color, and shape. This is a very carefully applied label. Apple grading was studied in detail by J.O. Urmson in an essay published in 1950 in the journal *Mind*, volume 59. It was called, interestingly enough, "On Grading."

Grading is a simple form of judging. If the apple (in this case) meets all the conditions (criteria, or reasons), it is super grade. If it does not meet those requirements, it is not super grade. It is as simple as that. "Super grade" is very carefully defined. It is not an aesthetic term, but

only means the apple will look appealing in the supermarket.

It seems to me a lot of grading goes on in the iris world. There are conditions or criteria that a tall bearded iris, for example, must meet in order to be qualified as a decent iris, such as height, branching, number of buds, quality of branching, etc. If it meets the conditions, it is at least a decent iris. When criteria have been carefully developed with attention to specifics, then grading can be learned relatively easily, and there are few if any debates regarding whether the iris is at least adequate. These criteria have nothing to do with aesthetic appeal. They are easily taught and applied.

Identifying Beauty

Learning to appreciate a beautiful iris, in my estimation, cannot be taught by ordinary classroom techniques. The skill can only be developed by exposing people to a wide range of examples, and to the discussions of experts or critics with many years of experience. One needs to listen to them talk about why they believe a particular iris is beautiful or ugly. This is what goes on in judging such things as paintings and buildings. What I call “good taste” is developed by learning from others as well as by experiencing the aesthetic subject directly. The idea of having DVDs of master judges discussing some irises is a practical means of accomplishing this in a relatively short amount of time.

When I have seen experts or people of good taste get together to discuss some specific object, there has been quite a bit of agreement. They point to qualities in the aesthetic object that they think make it effective. Effectiveness is measured by what kind of aesthetic response the object causes someone who really attends to it and knows something about that particular kind of object. I believe this is true for art and for irises, which are just specialized art objects.

Some theory may be helpful. An aesthetic object, for example a painting, is a tool for the production of aesthetic enjoyment, or roughly the experience of beauty, though they are not exactly the same. The more familiar the viewer is with regard to that kind of object, the better his or her judgment is. Call it “good taste” or better “developed taste or judgment.” A man who has never heard traditional Japanese music will be utterly confused. His judgment is not worth much. He has no basis for comparison. But he can learn by exposure to much Japanese music and the comments of people who can judge it well.

Art critics and other people who enjoy a particular kind of aesthetic object may present reasons for their judgment. “The painting is good because it involves an interesting variation on the triangle principle of design.” “No,” another says, “The triangle principle is strained here because it causes the artist to distort perspective. This painting is therefore not as

good with regard to that quality as you thought.” If the two people having this hypothetical conversation are willing to listen to one another, a mind or two might be changed. It often is because someone will see something she or he had not noticed before until someone pointed it out.

Art critics present reasons. So do iris critics, called judges. One problem with aesthetic reasons is that you cannot use them as rules to create, for example, a good painting. One can follow all the rules and at best produce an acceptable work of art, not particularly a great one. Excellence or creativity involves more than following rules, and rules can tell you only a part of what makes the work of art great rather than average.

But something *has* to make the painting good or perhaps great. It will be several qualities, more than likely. It is the job of the critic to be sensitive to what is making *this* work of art effective or excellent, or perhaps second rate or a mere hack piece. The same traits that contribute to excellence in one work of art may not work at all in another painting. So reason-giving in art is peculiar, and not really subject to forming objective criteria except to the extent that you can tell and evaluate what makes most works of art decent or acceptable. Beyond that there is the indefinable combination of qualities in this particular, unique piece of art that make it work, make it excellent, or make it worthy of the highest praise. These all mean the same thing to me.

That’s a bit about why I am stubborn about the analysis of judgments involving works of art, and irises. You cannot judge aesthetic excellence by general rules to any great extent. It is the qualities in this particular work, or iris, which make it succeed or fail, and those qualities may not be present, or may be a hindrance, in some other work of art or iris.

In addition, great artists can break some of the rules, and produce a great work of art rather than a poor one. It’s a risky path, but some artists tread it successfully.

Turning now specifically to the world of irises, let’s look at just the issue of color since it is heavily involved in determining if an iris is beautiful. The current AIS tall bearded criteria for color are presented below in *italics*. My reflections follow. They will illustrate how impossible it is to reduce beauty to just a set of rules.

“It is a color which attracts us. The iris flower itself is large, and the single blossom should be individually attractive.”

Color is of course very important. Unfortunately more exposure to non-standard colors is needed to make people more sensitive to them. For example, people have been exposed to blue irises for a long time. Exposure to unfamiliar colors as found on ‘**Thornbird**’ (Byers 89, TB) takes much more aesthetic sensitivity if one is to appreciate them. That involves much more exposure with an open mind. Minds can be closed by narrow criteria.

"The flower must be free from any colors which strike a discordant note. Muddy, dull colors cannot be brilliant, delicate or rich and are lacking in good color clarity. Blended colors can create difficulty for the judge. They should produce a bright and pleasing appearance as opposed to the dull and drab."

This is simply a prejudice, but a common one. It unfortunately has been entrenched in AIS circles and is taught as if derived from God himself. Discordant colors can be very striking. Dull colors can also be called pastel or low key, and can be quite delicate. Blends can be exotic though dull.

"In amoenas, bicolours, bitones and variegatas either sharp or subtle contrast is acceptable, but it is important that the colors create harmony. Plicata patterns should be distinct and not appear as stains. In plicatas with standards and falls of a nearly solid color pattern, the ground color is almost obscured; in others, the ground color shines brightly."

Some hybridizers are now pursuing stains. They have seen the beauty in them. The rest of us can probably learn from them if we wish to increase the number of irises which give us pleasure.

"The color of the beard can contribute significantly to the beauty and brightness of the flower. Beard colors can match the flower or a sharp contrast between the two can result in striking garden subjects. A "fat" beard of generous proportion is usually preferred to a straggly, sparse one."

Fat beards are good. Thin beards are good. No beards are good too. A beard that really makes one flower beautiful may simply be a distraction on another.

"A new color, if pleasing, is an asset and should receive favorable ratings from judges. An iris must always be judged on its total garden qualities. Color alone is insufficient justification for an award."

I love the use of the word 'pleasing' here; pleasing to whom is the question. Judges could differ and continue to differ even after hours of talk. That is the nature of the beast called aesthetic judgment. Often purely subjective factors are present. I recall hearing one former AIS president confess that he thought pink was a terrible color for an iris, and I have to constantly fight that same prejudice in myself. I think I can appreciate pink irises. I still don't prefer them. Some year I may learn to like them, as I have learned to like extra dry martinis.

It is easy to say, in these cases, "Well I know what I like." Most of us know what we like, and there is no particular virtue in that. A judge may have to judge irises for which he or she has no personal preference, and a good judge can put personal preference aside to a great extent. And if one can learn to like what previously had no appeal, the range of his or her appreciation for and joy in beauty can be increased. It seems to me that the more beauty you find in this life, the richer your life is.

"Color that fades rapidly or in an unpleasing series of variations is unacceptable. A flower that fades before maintaining three days of pleasing appearance should be heavily penalized."

Some flowers fade fast and each shade is attractive. Early foreclosure on aesthetics by rules just rejects possible sources of aesthetic joy.

"Haft colors must be judged on the basis of whether they add to or detract from the appearance of the flower. 'Rough' is a term which usually describes unpleasant color application, although intense haft colorings can be quite attractive. Sometimes these vein colorations do not extend far enough down the falls to be conspicuous, and these hafts are said to be 'smooth.'"

Unpleasant color application to whom? Some AIS criteria simply formalize the prejudices and preferences of someone who wrote them. I am truly amazed that 'Thornbird', for example, ever got the Dykes. I happen to enjoy it and many of its children. I have heard quite a few negative comments about that iris for years now. Perhaps our flower arrangers, who can appreciate a wider range of colors and shapes, should be our mentors in these areas.

The AIS has a tough job trying to teach the basics of judging beauty to a lot of people. I am appreciative of those problems, but also appreciative of the ultimate aesthetic questions. Who said it would be easy? 

A Breeder's Life

By Robin Shadlow, Nebraska

How does this happen to you? It starts out innocent enough. You're just growing a few easily cultivated irises. The rabbits don't like them and they make a big splash every spring. One summer day my sister and I decided that having a small commercial garden would be fun. We would get to enjoy the bloom, could sell some of the increases, and support our gardening habit. I distinctly remember thinking to myself that there was no sense in buying the new expensive ones because the old ones were just as nice. Well that lasted maybe three months. As we bought our stock, I started reading and found some Internet forums. Then I discovered that there were such things as irises that bloomed twice a year. And that pretty much did it. Once I knew about rebloomers I wanted them in more colors, with better form, and to be more dependable in our garden. Suddenly you need more irises, better parents, the newest patterns, more ruffles, and more width.

I guess it shouldn't have been that big of a surprise. It seems I have always been breeding something. As early as 15, I was breeding my first horses. In fact if it had not been painfully obvious that I could not afford the quality of parents that I needed, I might as well be writing an article for an equine publication. Working with horses did serve to give me a much greater appreciation of irises; they never bite or kick, and they are much more cooperative to photograph. You can have the most exciting and exotic iris for around \$50.00, a bargain compared to the \$50,000 price tags for an exceptional mare. Plus you don't have vet bills and, when breeding, if you don't like a seedling, you don't have to convince someone to buy it. You can just toss it in the compost heap!

But the contrast between the iris world and horse world that is the starkest is the people. There is such an amazing difference in general attitudes. We are very lucky to have some of the most generous people in our midst. Not the competitive "if I help you, you just may beat me" attitude I was used to in the Arabian horse world. There exists an attitude of sharing information, ideas, pollen, and plants.

One of the best sources of information for me as I got started was the AIS sponsored Internet forum called iris-talk, now archived at www.hort.net. Many knowledgeable people participate in this group. You can ask anything, and believe me I did. When I first started asking questions, I did not even know that iris seeds produced unique siblings. It is a great place to start; you can get help with germination problems, cultivation issues, and hybridizing questions.

I was very fortunate that Neil Mogensen was very active on iris-talk when I first started. He must have spent hours answering questions for me, explaining the genetics behind the basic patterns. During this time, Neil was fighting cancer. He went through some intense surgeries while keeping such a brave attitude. Not only did he teach me about hybridizing, he taught me a great deal about courage. He faced great challenges and found a way to make significant contributions to the iris world by sharing his knowledge, even when he did not have the strength to line out his seedlings.

I have gotten to meet and know many of the people that I first met online either at conventions, or in gardens around the world. Through iris-talk, I have made wonderful friendships that will endure for years. Because I felt like I already knew her from our online exchanges, I introduced myself to Betty Wilkerson, a fellow rebloom fanatic at the Memphis convention. She has helped me so much over the years, sharing information on which parents have been useful to her and basic tactics to achieve our shared goal. She is always offering encouragement to new hybridizers.

Through some correspondences that started on iris-talk, I got

to know Chuck Chapman. He has answered many, many questions, especially on genetics and has shared some ideas on what may be happening in some of the basic patterns. He agreed to come be a speaker for our Region's spring tour, a long trip down from Canada. And of course, he got up at the crack of dawn to go through my seedling bed with me before the second day of the tour, pointing out things I would not have caught on my own.

Local iris people have been great too. Leroy Meininger and Leonard Jedlicka have been very generous. Many a time, I have grabbed Leroy in a garden and had him go over the merits of a plant with me. I have visited the Jedlickas' garden twice and the second time Leonard spent most of the day going through his seedlings with me. He showed me his successes and failures, and has shared a lot of information on his growing methods. He has given me discs of photos so I can see the seedlings he is getting, and shared the parentages. Seeing what other people have gotten can really help you make better decisions when you go to make those crosses yourself.

One person probably *wishes* I wasn't quite so local. Tim Stanek has earned near saint stature for all of the help he has been to me. We have shared pollen, plants and ideas. When a rank new beginner managed to bloom nearly 3000 seedlings that first year, it was Tim to the rescue. He came out and went through all of them with me. The next year all of those seedlings had been left in place in order to evaluate rebloom. I came home from a trip and the seedling bed was in full bloom and I mean full bloom. There were so many seedlings crammed together, that I could not see the good ones for all of the garbage around them. I was so overwhelmed; it was almost hard to breathe. What else is there to do but get on the phone and call for help from Tim! After that I did learn that it was smarter to get rid of most of them.

Mike Greenfield gets some credit here too. While I have never been lucky enough to meet him, the information he shared on pushing seedlings has been critical in shortening the time from setting seed until blooming seedlings. Without his method, I never would have gotten those 3000 seedlings to bloom the second spring after germination.

I have learned a lot from going to the conventions, and I truly do feel like I have a huge and wonderful iris family. A little traveling can get you a lot. I have been fortunate to get to know some of the best hybridizers in the world. There could not be a better group of people. You have to commend them on being so approachable. There isn't one of them that hasn't responded and been helpful to me when I have e-mailed with questions. I simply can not begin to list everyone that has helped me because there are just so many. But two in particular have

been so helpful and I can't help but thank them here.

Keith Keppel helps so many people. You have to wonder how he keeps us all straight! I have been welcomed into his garden and he and his partner Philip have been simply wonderful to me. I have asked Keith so many questions over the years, some of them pretty stupid, some that no one can answer. He has always been immensely helpful and patient with me. He has helped me with pedigree research and has provided me with much knowledge that I could not have read about. He has been generous with information on which cultivars have been good parents. Keith has also helped me analyze patterns that show up in the seedling beds, and has been an excellent source of information on pattern genetics.

While in the Keppel garden, I also had the chance to meet Barry Blyth. Barry has been equally patient and generous with me. He has answered countless inquiries as to what reblooms for him in Australia. He has shared photos of his seedlings and has always been happy to tell me which lines he is getting the best seedlings from. This October I made the trek to Australia to visit his nursery Tempo Two. It was just amazing to witness an Australian peak bloom after a particularly bad year here. It was nothing short of wonderful to get to see all of his new introductions and newest seedlings for myself. Barry took me through all of the seedlings and pointed out new variations in patterns and other things that I may not have seen. The Blyths truly made me feel like one of the family.

I have learned a great deal seeing what Keppel and Blyth are getting in the seedling beds. Besides getting ideas of things to try in my own crosses, I have seen the best new seedlings and have a better vision in my mind of what my goals need to be if I want to achieve excellence. I know they didn't invent the practice, but by example Keith and Barry really set the tone on what sharing means in the iris world. They make crosses in each other's gardens and ship the seeds. They each try different things and we all win since we get to enjoy their successes just that much sooner. That's a lesson well worth passing on.

If you are interested in breeding irises, help is out there. Take the time to read as much as you can. See as many irises as you can but appreciate and be respectful of others' time. You will be amazed by how much help you will get and all of the friends you will make along the way. And anybody who happens to be in Nebraska in May is always welcome to stop by my seedling patch. I can always use the extra help evaluating. Rather than grow fewer seedlings so I have time to evaluate them, my plan is to learn how to evaluate faster! 

How Fungi Function

Get to the root of a healthy, vigorous garden by promoting soil fungi

By Sandra Dark

Years ago, my husband and I moved to a new residential tract that had been scraped bare of vegetation. We invested heavily in trees, shrubs, vines, and ornamentals. But after three years of diligent watering and fertilizing, few of the plantings had gained much ground, and a disheartening number had died. Our neighbors had the same problem.

We had no idea that our new landscapes, built on recently devastated soil, lacked what 90 percent of plants can't live without: root fungi. Plants and root-colonizing fungi have formed mutually beneficial relationships—known as mycorrhizae (my-ker-EYE-zee)—for hundreds of millions of years. Here's how it works. Host plants often channel much of their carbohydrate production below ground to feed the fungi. In return, root-fungi act as extensions of feeder roots and enhance water and nutrient uptake by up to 1000 times. They also improve soil structure and ease transplant shock. Some fungi even attack potentially harmful disease organisms.

The thousands of species of root-fungi come in two major groups. Ectomycorrhizae (EM) fungi sheath root tips and extend hyphae (threads) both into the roots and out into the soil. They absorb and store soil nutrients, making them available to their hosts. Most are host-specific, meaning that each species of EM forms a symbiotic relationship with only one species of plant, such as white oak or black pine.

More common are microscopic endomycorrhizae (EN) fungi, which extend hyphae directly into root cells but don't sheath root tips. As with EM fungi, these hyphae serve as additional root hairs for the plant, especially helpful in low-fertility soil. EN fungi are rarely host-specific.

In nature, a wide variety of root-fungi can populate a given area, each adapted for a different relationship or situation (for example, seedlings or mature plants, high or low soil temperature). A plant with an extensive root system that sprawls through varying soil conditions might host numerous species.

Root-fungi are particularly vital for plants that are stressed by weather conditions, disease, or poor soil. But the fungi themselves are fragile. They can disappear when topsoil has been lost, tilled, compacted, overused, treated with fungicides or other chemicals, or otherwise damaged.

Here are ways to promote root fungi in your garden soil.

Add organic matter. Root fungi transform compost, shredded leaves, rotted manure, and other decaying matter into nutrients for the host plant. And well-drained soil rich in organic matter has more air between particles—a must for active microbial action. Refrain from deep-tilling amendments into the soil, since digging can destroy miles of interconnecting root-fungi hyphae.

Abundant organic matter eventually brings high or low soil pH toward the neutral range necessary for most plants. Root-fungi can't live if the soil pH varies by more than a point or two from the optimum acceptable range for its host plant.

Water and walk on soil in moderation. Root-fungi need some moisture, but they'll drown in waterlogged soil. Avoid compacting garden soil (and reducing its capacity to drain) by walking or driving on it.

If your soil is low in organic matter or was heavily disturbed within the past 10 years, inoculate your transplants with root-fungi. It's like taking out an insurance policy. Here a few tips for inoculating your own garden plants.

Treat bare-root plants. Check with a reputable nursery about purchasing and applying appropriate mycorrhizal-fungi species, or shop online.

Jump-start seedlings. Ornamentals, tomatoes, and other home-grown seedlings produce more vigorous root systems when potting soil is inoculated with EN fungi, available from mail-order supply houses.

Check with your local cooperative extension office. The agent can help you decide whether your plants might benefit from inoculation with mycorrhizal fungi. 

The Other Irids, Part I

Junos: Most Intriguing Irises

By Robert Pries, Missouri

Im always looking for something new and different for my garden. When it comes to iris there is nothing quite like the group of species called Junos. These plants are so unusual that in the past they were assigned their own genus *Juno*. Since Junos is such a nice word most people still refer to them by that name even though they technically belong to the Subgenus *Scorpiris*. Junos are not a small group with around fifty species but they are rarely seen because some of the earliest known species were hard to grow and it has only been in the last decade that gardeners



Iris aucheri

have discovered the easy ones. The first flower described in the famous journal Curtis's Botanical Magazine was *Iris persica*. Despite the fact that it is less hardy than most it was grown in Nebraska and North Carolina in the 1950s.

As a group Juno irises are early spring flowers. In some cases they even bloom before *Iris reticulata*. What is amazing is that at a time when most early spring flowers seem to be merely a few inches tall there are Juno irises that reach as high as three feet, like in *Iris magnifica*. Junos are the kings and queens of the late winter and early spring garden.

You should have no trouble recognizing a Juno Iris. The bulbs have fleshy roots that sometimes

are larger than the bulb itself. It almost looks like a cross between a tulip and a daylily. But you don't need to see the bulb to identify these plants. The leaves are arranged almost like a corn plant and form sort of a ladder. In the axils of the leaves there is a flower as well as one at the very top of the shoot. This provides a very definitive look. The flowers themselves are unusual too. The standards are tiny and usually hang down as if they were falls. The gaudy projections taking their place are the petal-like style arms. The falls generally flare outward. This is a very different construction from most iris flowers but is nonetheless very attractive.

When considering their culture it is important to know which of the 50 species you have, whether it's the tiniest of dwarfs or the luxuriant *Iris magnifica*. All prefer good drainage and tend to have a summer resting period. Culture may be considered similar to the *Oncocylus aril* irises which share their natural habitats. Just as the arilbreds are more forgiving than the pure arils, some Junos are much easier than others.

If I were to recommend a species to begin with it would have to be *Iris bucharica*. This Juno is probably the most widely available because one cultivar known as 'Princess' is grown by Dutch bulb growers. 'Princess' has bright white style arms and white falls with a conspicuous bright yellow blotch covering most of the blade. It grows ten to fourteen inches tall and usually has four to five flowers per shoot. In early spring it towers over hyacinths and *Iris reticulata*. *Iris bucharica* will flourish in ordinary well-drained garden soil

all the way into Canada. It prefers to be somewhat dryer later and benefits from a summer baking. There are varieties of *I. bucharica* that are all white, all yellow and even some hybrids that are blue and white. Other easy species are *Iris willmottiana*, *I. aucheri*, and *I. vicaria*.

There are still Junos being discovered although the enthusiasm for collecting in such places as Afghanistan has waned. One of the more recent finds was *Iris cycloglossa*. Since it was discovered growing next to streams in the semi-desert mountain areas, it was believed to be more tolerant of moist conditions. It has proven to be a great plant for the perennial border and is reminiscent of Dutch iris with its narrow leaves.

If you have not grown Junos I recommend them to you. They are not so easy that they can be mistreated like the bearded irises. But when you grow them you will have some pride of accomplishment for having grown something unique and unusual. ❧



Iris bucharica

A Milestone of the Las Vegas Iris Society

By Mary Lee Fortner, Nevada

The Las Vegas Iris Society's theme for 2008 is "Keeping America Beautiful One Iris Garden at a Time. And I think we are doing just that. With added thirteen new members this part year and now have thirteen new iris gardens to help our theme along. One of the most exciting parts of our growth is the promise of youth. We have a new youth program with our five new youth members. Our new youth chairman will be asking the Region 14 and AIS youth chairmen for lots



Condo Family, four generations of LVAS irisarians

of help so we can keep these youth members active and interested in our program.

2007 was a very special year for the Las Vegas Iris Society in another way too. When two of our youth members joined it gave us the status of having two fourgenerationfamilies

of active members. How lucky can one society be?

One of our charter members, Evelyn Condo, who was a charter member of the Southern Nevada Iris Society and then the Las Vegas Iris Society has been an active member since the beginning and had her granddaughters involved when they were young. Evelyn found it necessary to move to Sparks, Nevada a few years ago but she remains very active in our functions. She comes to our yard tour and flower show in the spring, our sale in June, and any other time she can come to Las Vegas. She is an AIS Senior Judge and does Judges Training when she can. I have visited Evelyn at her home in Sparks and her iris gardens are beautiful. This year Evelyn's daughters Sue Jennifer joined along with Jennifer's two daughters Sydney and Hannah. We are so lucky to have this family as part of our society. This is our four generation family of active members, from 80 to 7 years of age.

Our second family is Ellie, her daughter Christine Meagher and husband Mike, and their daughter Christie and her son Brayden. They have not been members as long as Evelyn but they are very active with our activities. I feel so lucky to be president of this society and to welcome these two families in to our group. They are an asset and I look forward to getting to know all of them and cultivating new friendships. 



Meagher Family, four generations of LVAS irisarians

Plicata Locus Color

Patterns in Bearded Irises

By Dr. Don Spoon, Virginia

My Mentor's Advice: When I first discussed iris hybridizing with Charlie Nearpass, I asked him, "How can I reach my goals with the fewest number of crosses?" He said that you cannot count on beginner's luck based on random, unplanned crosses. Learn all you can about iris genetics before you begin and as you proceed. Make planned crosses to reach your goals. When I first visited his one-acre garden, I noticed four rusty horseshoes lying by the bench in the shade of his large walnut tree. I asked him why he kept horseshoes there. With a twinkle in his eye, he said, "For luck."

Humans Replace Insect Pollinators: Bearded irises, like humans, have over 25,000 different genes. Modern plant genetic studies, such as studies on *Arabidopsis thaliana*, thale cress of the mustard/cabbage family, have greatly increased our understanding of the complexity of genetic mechanisms. Its complete genome map was described in 20001. The genes that determine the flower's traits are coded messages (the genotype) that in the plant's current environment produce the expressed characteristics (the phenotype). The coded message can be altered in many ways, sometimes producing a sport. A point mutation is where one nucleotide base in the DNA strand is altered, changing the three base code so that a different amino acid is inserted into the protein changing its enzymatic, structural, regulatory, or other function.

The flowers of polychromatic, wild bearded iris species granted survival value to each succeeding generation by successfully attracting and competing for insect pollinators like wild bees, and especially large bumblebees. Humans made hybrids from wild species, and then thousands of cultivars that we nurture and protect. Modern cultivars can have pedigree trees showing over 25 cross generations from the wild species. Now humans are the main pollinators of irises, and we are rapidly converting them to satisfy our concept of beauty and utility in the garden and on the show bench. The expressions of the recessive alleles at the *plicata* locus have seldom been seen in the wild. Obviously, they are human and not insect selected traits.

We developed tetraploid bearded iris cultivars for their larger flowers and

taller stalks. This was accomplished without colchicine, as in some beardless irises, by crossing pollen parents of tetraploid Asiatic species, such as wild-collected clones of *I. mesopotamica* onto pod parents of European diploid species such as *I. pallida* and *I. variegata*. The diploid parents occasionally produced unreduced (2X diploid, not 1X haploid) ova that when combined with the tetraploid's 2X diploid sperm nuclei produced one or a few viable fully tetraploid seeds per pod². Undoubtedly, the tetraploid species collected from the wild had existed as tetraploids for hundreds of thousands of years in nature giving them time to accumulate many unexpressed, mutated recessive alleles. Most of the advances in bearded iris hybridizing have been accomplished by hybridizing to bring these recessive traits to four doses (homozygous recessives) in the tetraploid. This allowed the recessive traits to be expressed rather than the dominant traits. Under continuing human selection, the flowers of our modern cultivars have become more diverse and showy in form and color pattern, more intensely colored, and in nearly all the colors of the rainbow. Hybridizers are working to add and intensify the final missing colors of the rainbow: spectrum red, spectrum blue, green, and blue-green.

Some Groups of Genes Controlling Iris Flowers: There are over a hundred varieties of domesticated pigeon breeds, but if you cross them at random for 16 crosses you will return to the dominant traits of the wild type rock dove (blue with dark bars on wings, etc.) as you will lose the recessive traits that determined the various breeds, such as flightless white fantails. This is because the wild type descriptive genes are usually dominant to the recessive descriptive genes at the same locus (chromosome location). We call each of the different dominant or recessive forms of a gene at the same chromosome locus an allele. (The term factor is often used as a synonym for allele, yet in animal and plant physiology it has other meanings.) The phenotypic expression of a dominant or a recessive allele can produce a color pattern. The dominant allele needs only one dose in a tetraploid to be expressed while the recessive allele must have four doses to be expressed, or occur only with other recessive alleles. Genes at other loci than the descriptive genes can determine how they vary in extent, intensity, or size. They are called modifier genes that have dosage effects on either recessive or dominant alleles. The wild type modifying genes with dosage effects that were selected for their survival value can be either dominant or recessive depending on the trait being modified. There are developmental genes, now called MADS-box (I call box for short), that control the beginning, duration, and ending of processes of development of the flower and its various parts and domains, such as hafts, shoulders, beards, midlines, and various concentric borders of the falls. Box genes are a kind of transcription factor, that when activated can control other genes by turning

them on or off and can initiate cascades of cellular metabolic activity³. There are transposons, the jumping genes, obtained from retrovirus infections that insert their parasitic DNA into its host chromosomal DNA interrupting or distorting its message. The retrovirus has only RNA but has an enzyme that it can convert the host cell's RNA into DNA. In *Arabidopsis* these transposable elements make up about 10% of the genome⁴. There are extrachromosomal genes in the cyclic DNA of membrane-bound mitochondria and chloroplasts that only come from the cytoplasm of the ovum, not the pollen sperm nucleus, and determine maternally inherited traits like vigor and variegated foliage. To obtain the expressed traits of these extrachromosomal genes they must be possessed by the pod parent. Also, maternally inherited genes explain why seedlings from reciprocal crosses can yield different results.⁵

Location of Pigments in Iris Flowers: The petals of the bearded iris flower have three layers, an upper and lower epidermis sandwiching the internal mesophyll layer. The epidermal layers including the multicellular beard hairs contain most of the expressed visible pigments. Under UV light, fluorescent pigments called co-pigments are seen in the mesophyll that can alter the appearance of the visual pigments in the epidermal layers⁶. When a flower freezes and becomes translucent it loses its whiteness produced by light scattering by the conical papillae on the epidermal surface, the microstructures of the living protoplasm, cellulose cell walls, and waxy cuticle. In the dark purple and black cultivars these epidermal surface features produce the multicolored sheen of the velvety texture. These surface features also account for diamond dusting and silver lining, both present in 'Sky and Sun' (Spoon 99, TB).

The water soluble pigments, such as the dominating blue-violet anthocyanin delphinidin, are located in the cell sap of the central vacuole of the epidermal cells. The lipid soluble carotenoid pigments, such as yellow carotenes, red-orange carotene called lycopene, and yellow xanthophylls, are located in the membranes of the chromoplasts in the cytoplasm of the epidermal cells. Alcohol will extract the yellow carotenoids and xanthophylls from iris flowers but not the pink to red-orange lycopene pigments.⁷

3 Amy Litt, 2006. Natural History 115(5):34-40

4 Gail Vines, 2000. New Scientist Vol. 168. #2267: 36-39

5 Barry Blyth, 1983. (Bulletin 49:16-21). See for his valuable discussion of the importance of reciprocal crosses.

6 Joanne Wynne & Norlan Henderson, 1973. "Anthocyanin Pigments in the Flowers of Tall Bearded Irises". Bulletin #209:37-43., N. Henderson, 1978. Chapter 25, "Iris Pigments". The World of Irises. pages 360-374., and N, Henderson. 1981. "Colors & Color-Patterns in the Tall-Bearded Iris". Bulletin #241:19-27.

7 Peter Werckmeister, 1960 "Iris Colors and Pigments", Bulletin #158:25-33.

Layering of Anthocyanin and Carotenoid Pigments and Pigment Patterns: Crucial to understanding how color and color patterns are formed is to know that anthocyanin and carotenoid pigments are layered on top of each other as if they were applied onto two superimposed clear sheets. Equally crucial is to understand that there is layering of the different color pigment patterns produced by different gene loci, as when you layer a recessive plicata pattern on a dominant or recessive amoena pattern.

If a white flower that has its anthocyanin inhibited by the dominant (IA) gene is treated with weak hydrochloric acid solution, it turns purple. This shows that the delphinidin is still present, just chemically altered. Glaciatas, which lack all anthocyanin pigmentation, do not turn purple when treated with dilute hydrochloric acid⁸. When a stalk of the white '**Cup Race**' (Buttrick 63, TB), with its anthocyanin inhibited by the dominant (IA) gene, is placed in a solution containing 2-OH (hydroxyl) precursor molecules, the flowers express delphinidin in the epidermal cells above the vascular bundles, instead of in the cell sap of the vacuole, and look like the arils '**Oyez**' (White 38, AB) or '**Cythe**' (Van Tubergen/Aril Society 67, AB). The veins turn lavender blue and the rest of the flower stays white. The white '**Cup Race**' has epidermal cells that can not make delphinidin with three hydroxyls on its six carbon benzene ring without the 2-OH precursor because a required enzyme is inhibited by the (IA) gene. Instead, an OH (hydroxyl) is attached to the #4 carbon of the aromatic double ring structure of the delphinidin molecule producing the colorless pseudobase called leucoanthocyanin.⁹ The anthocyanin has not been removed, just chemically cloaked. It would be interesting to know if this leucoanthocyanin can reflect or absorb UV radiation to fluoresce its energy in less energetic and less damaging photons. The anthocyanin pigments like delphinidin may serve as epidermal "body armor" against UV light and also mop up the free radicals the UV produces by functioning as antioxidants.

Line Inbreed to Express Recessive Alleles: Diploid heterozygotes (Aa) when crossed together produce 1 in 4 homozygous recessives (aa) while tetraploids two dose heterozygotes (AAaa) X (AAaa) produce only about 1 in 36 homozygous, four dose recessives (aaaa).¹⁰ This demonstrates why in order to express recessives in this kind of cross as in a selfing, sibling cross, or backcross to the parents requires about 75 seedlings to have a reasonable chance of one success. If the genotypes crossed are (AAAa) X (AAAa) only 1 in 576 (aaaa) under the ideal, purely random conditions can

8 Dave Niswonger, 2003. "Hybridizing Tall Bearded Irises". Bulletin 330:34-46.

9 Strickland, Harrison, and Barnes, 1978. BIS Yearbook pages 45-50.

10 Kenneth Kidd, 1969. Bulletin #193:65-85 and 1978. Chapter 26, "Iris Genetics". The World of Irises. pages 375-415.

be expected. However, the chances of obtaining a two dose heterozygote (AAaa) from (AAAA) X (AAaa) are closer to 1 in 36. So the best way to convert a one dose recessive allele to two, and then four doses, is two successive self crosses, or two lucky sib crosses, or four extremely lucky cousin crosses. If you relied purely on chance and outbreeding, without even first or second cousin crosses it would take many lifetimes, if ever, to express the four dose recessive from a one dose recessive. Dave Hall, who produced key progenitors for our modern pink cultivars, advised that if you have a goal involving a recessive allele you should line inbreed. Occasional outbreeding to parallel breeding programs may succeed, and might also give hybrid vigor. Ben Hager crossed his '**Vanity**' (Hager 75, TB) as pollen parent to the similar '**Pink Pirouette**' (Newhard 70, TB). This parallel outbreeding produced the vigorous, floriferous Dykes Medal winner '**Beverly Sills**' (Hager 79, TB).

Dominant Anthocyanin Inhibitor Loci, (IA) and (IAs). Note that I add an (A) for Anthocyanin: Understanding the genetic makeup (genotype) of the myriad expressions of the plicata locus alleles requires an understanding of how they react with other gene loci. Historically, it was believed that the plicata locus alleles influenced only the anthocyanin expression and not the carotenoid colors or patterns. Jean Witt expressed her belief, acknowledging Lynn Markham's earlier input, that the plicata and other anthocyanin patterns could be expressed similarly in the carotenoid color patterns. She presented the "heretical" idea, as she called it, that plicata locus alleles control pigment distribution (both anthocyanin and carotenoid) in specific areas of the flower, such as borders. (I use the term domain as synonymous with her term area.)¹¹ There are modern yellow plicatas, luminatas, and other patterns that appear to be true carotenoid patterns instead of very light tan anthocyanin pigmentation, such as minimal "ghost plicata" patterns. '**Broken Dreams**' (Keppel 98, TB) is a pink and white color-breaker produced at the plicata locus. There is much evidence to support the Witt/Markham hypothesis. It takes only one (IA) dominant anthocyanin inhibitor allele to eliminate the plicata locus recessive allele expression except at the very base of the falls. Minimalist plicatas at the extreme are white except at the closest inspection such as '**Laced Cotton**' (Schreiner's 80, TB) (possible genotype - pl pl pl pl - at the plicata locus) that produces plicatas if crossed on plicatas.¹² There seems to be a slight dosage effect with (IA) with one to three dosages of dominant (IA) having a bluish wash on white, or mauve wash on pink,

11 Jean Witt, 1971. Bulletin #200:39-50.

12 Keith Keppel, 2003. "Plicatas, Luminatas, and Glaciatas". Bulletin 330:51, 54, & 55.

especially on the buds as in '**Immortality**' (Zurbrigg 82, TB). Total lack of anthocyanin except at the base of the falls, as in a pure white self like our reblooming '**Snow Parasol**' (Spoon 99, TB) from an '**Immortality**' sibling '**Chaste White**' (Zurbrigg 97, TB), may require four dominant doses (IA IA IA IA).

The (IAs) dominant anthocyanin inhibitor of anthocyanin in the standards, as in Paul Cook's '**Progenitor**' (51, TB) or dominant amoena pattern as in '**Whole Cloth**' (58, TB), was developed in his search for purer spectrum blue colors.¹³ The (IAs) allele removes the plicata pattern from the standards leaving white or any carotenoid color (yellow, pink, peach, or orange) patterns present in the standards. The dominant (IAs) gene for inhibition of anthocyanin in the standards has dosage effects: four dominant doses (IAs IAs IAs IAs) – white standards and anthocyanin pigmented falls (amoena), three doses (IAs IAs IAs ias) – lavender blue standards and darker falls (neglecta or near amoena), two doses (IAs IAs ias ias) – standards lighter than falls (bitone), one dose (IAs ias ias ias) – standards barely lighter than falls (slight bitone), and no doses of dominant and four doses of recessive (ias ias ias ias) – anthocyanin in standards and falls producing an anthocyanin self pattern. The anthocyanin intensity throughout the range of dosages can be slight as in '**Dover Beach**' (Nearpass 72, TB) and '**Cascadian Rhythm**' (Schreiner's 07, TB) with light blue falls and white standards and yet be a four dose dominant amoena (IAs IAs IAs IAs).

I obtained a dark violet complete self from crossing the two neglectas, '**Son of Dreams**' X '**Best Bet**' that approached '**Dusky Challenger**' (Schreiner's 86, TB) and its parent '**Titan's Glory**' (Schreiner's 81, TB) in color and form. From his first cross as a hybridizer (TB '**Best Bet**' X SDB '**What Again**'), Lowell Baumunk obtained perfection in the smooth, deep purple IB self, '**Midsummer Night's Dream**' (99) that is also a dependable rebloomer. I believe that this self pattern is produced when you have four doses of recessive (ias) that allows expression of a smooth, deep purple self pattern at a different locus than the plicata (PL) self pattern. Note that I use PL for plicata locus self pattern and not Pl for no-plicata pattern. I call this the dominant anthocyanin self pattern locus with the allele (A) for dominant production of anthocyanin. I believe it is the fundamental wild type anthocyanin self pattern locus, and from it the other anthocyanin loci, such as the plicata loci, were produced by its multiplication. The recessive alleles are (aaaa), probably the rarely seen other recessive white (crossing two blues can produce a few whites) and possibly the smooth zonal (zzzz) pattern as

13 Molly Price, 1958. "Tribute to Genius". Bulletin #149:6-9.

in ‘**Sarah Lauren**’ (Van Valkenburgh 95, TB) and its parent ‘**Victoria Falls**’ (Schreiner’s 77, TB).¹⁴

When the dominant inhibitor of anthocyanin recessive allele (ia) is at four doses, the self pattern expressed can be the plicata locus (PL) self pattern if no dominant (A) is present. It can be (A) self pattern when (ia ia ia ia) is present and no (PL) self pattern is present. If (PL) and (A) are present together, then the (A) self pattern, being darker and more evenly distributed, should dominate over the (PL) self pattern. This might explain why sometimes you can darken an anthocyanin pigmented self by crossing it on a plicata with no (PL) allele for self pattern. We thank Keith Keppel for his great black plicatas like ‘**Inside Track**’ (02, TB).

When combined with the various carotenoid colors and patterns in the standards the (IAs) dominant gene can produce a host of bicolors, such as variegatas that have anthocyanin pigmented falls on yellow selfs. From this dominant amoena anthocyanin pattern, by adding lycopene only in the falls, Ghio created the aptly named ‘**Starring**’ (00, TB), the gorgeous black amoena with white standards and black falls and showy red-orange beards. The dominant amoena pattern at its four dosage levels combined with the various plicata locus patterns gives a great diversity of amoena-plicatas, amoena-luminatas, amoena-color breakers, and amoena-(luminata-plicata) patterns.¹⁵

Self and Zonal Patterns: The dominant (PL) allele at the plicata locus is sometimes called the no pattern allele, meaning it lacks the plicata pattern. It should be called the plicata locus self pattern. The dominant inhibitor gene for anthocyanin (IA) when homozygous recessive (ia ia ia ia) allows the self pattern to be expressed. Also, the dominant inhibitor gene for anthocyanin in the standards (IAs) when homozygous recessive (ias ias ias ias) allows the self pattern to be expressed. Is this self pattern in each of these cases produced by the (PL) allele? I proposed above that there is another dominant self pattern (A) at a separate but adjacent locus from the plicata locus that produces a darker, more evenly applied anthocyanin pigmentation with four doses of (ia) or (ias). I propose it has recessive alleles for the zonal patterns (z) seen in ‘**Victoria Falls**’ as well as the zonal sun burst pattern (sb) allele, as seen in ‘**Suky**’ (Mahan 91, TB). ‘**Suky**’ came from the cross of ‘**Violet Miracle**’ X ‘**Victoria Falls**’. Clarence Mahan has pointed out that the zonal sun burst pattern in purple ‘**Suky**’ is very similar to the sun burst pattern in the wide, ruffled very reliable multiple rebloomer, Sterling Innerst’s yellow and white ‘**Again and Again**’ (99, TB). Breeding with

14 Robert Schreiner, 1985. “An Emerging Pattern: Zonals”. Bulletin #258:46-48.

15 Keith Keppel, 2001. “Progenitor and Plicatas”. Tall Talk 4(1):19, 22, & 23.

plicatas like '**Stepping Out**' (Schreiners 64, TB) has produced zonals edged with relatively large dots like in '**Exotic Star**' (Plough 75, TB). This type of zonal also comes from breeding with color breakers, also out of '**Stepping Out**' and is probably another recessive allele at the plicata locus that I designate as (zn).

Broken Color, Transposons, and the Plicata Locus: One of Allan Ensminger's goals was to produce a blue plicata with white ground and red beards to be named 'Our Flag' using among other parents the plicatas '**Belle Meade**' (Wills 52, TB) and '**Stepping Out**' (pollen parent on foundational seedling #64-12). From this hybridizing program he created his lineage of variegated (broken color, BC) median and TB cultivars including the rebloomer '**Brindled Beauty**' (94, TB) and multicolored '**Autumn Years**' (96, TB).¹⁶ Ensminger described the five types of cultivars obtained in his variegated color-breaker hybridizing program: 1. '**Brindled Beauty**', darker streaks and splashes on lighter background. 2. '**Batik**' (86, BB), white streaks on dark background revealing underlying plicata pattern. 3. '**Pandora's Purple**' (81, TB), background subdued by darker color that fades to reveal a luminata-plicata pattern. 4. '**Painted Plie**' (83, TB), "petals washed with too-wet watercolor", darker edges reveal plicata pattern. 5. '**Exotic Star**', dark purple with white zonal with purple dotting pattern around the inner edges. This production of zonals suggests that zonal (zn) is an allele at the plicata locus. Crossing two (pl pl zn zn) would produce an occasional zonal (zn zn zn zn). I use (zn) to distinguish it from the smooth, evenly applied zonal (z) at the (A) dominant anthocyanin self pattern locus discussed above.

Using plicatas as pollen parents, Brad Kasperek crossed on Ensminger's color breakers and produced many uniquely beautiful cultivars with entertaining wildlife names, such as 'Baboon Bottom' and 'Anaconda Love'.¹⁷ Many of his TBs like '**Tiger Honey**' (94) produce tall stalks up to 37" tall. Kasperek proposed that BC is 3/4ths plicata. He had broken color cultivars such as '**Violet Tiger**' (94, TB) revert to plicata. One of our BC seedlings reverted to the (PL) self pattern. Ensminger had his purple streaked white '**Batik**' revert to a plicata. (Before reading the next sentence, note that the underline shows which allele the transposon has attached to and inactivated.) These two types of reversions, to plicata and self pattern dominant (PL), imply both 3/4ths plicata (PL pl pl pl) and 4/4ths plicata (pl, pl pl pl) as the genotype of the color breaker pod parent.

I propose that in one kind of BC the transposon resides on the (pl) allele (pl pl pl pl) and jumps to another gene locus, the single dominant

16 Allan Ensminger, 1984. "Fun and Fantasy". *Bulletin* #253:12-17.

17 Brad Kasperek, 1996. "Streaking is in! Color Breaking in Irises". *Bulletin* 303:73-76.

anthocyanin inhibitor allele (IA ia ia ia) inactivating it so the anthocyanin of the (A) dominant self pattern could be expressed. This would create a variegated color breaker like Ensminger's first BC seedling #64-12 or '**Brindled Beauty**' with light lavender-blue and darker violet streaks and splashes. If this jump occurred in the first cell that produces the new increase it would revert to a dominant self pattern (A). We would expect that the (IA) gene locus would be in close proximity to the plicata locus and on the same chromosome for such a jump to be successful.

I propose a second kind of BC where the transposon was initially on the single (IA ia ia ia) allele and jumped off it. The cells would go from purple produced by the (PL) self pattern allele to streaks and splashes of white (IA ia ia ia) as in '**Batik**'. In this situation the plicata locus would be (PL pl pl pl) with no attached transposon. If the transposon in the first cell that produced the new increase jumped onto the single (PL pl pl pl) allele, it would revert to a plicata pattern as '**Batik**' occasionally does. The cells are probably well protected against retrovirus insertions into the chromosomal DNA, and they probably only insert in a few susceptible and similar loci. This is not unlike the vulnerable portal in the "Star Wars" death star. There is probably a lot of jumping going on that does not produce a phenotypic expression. If the transposon on the (PL) allele simply moved to a (pl) allele then the anthocyanin could also be expressed as the (PL) allele, reactivating the production of color breakers. However, this would require that the transposon jumped from one chromosome to another chromosome which would only be feasible when the homologous chromosomes of each set were conjoined during synapses in meiosis.

A third kind of BC is when the flower is yellow or pink with genotype (ic IC IC IC) and develops lighter or white streaks and splashes as in '**Saharan Sun**' (Kasperek 95, TB) and '**King Tush**' (Kasperek 97, TB). I propose the designation of (IC) for the dominant inhibitor of carotenoid pigmentation in the petals, with four dominant doses making a white. Production of this kind of BC could be where the transposon is on the plicata (pl) or (PL) allele with the cells in the developing petals yellow or pink and then jumps to the single recessive inhibitor of carotenoid (ic IC IC IC), inactivating it so there are only dominant (IC) functional alleles giving a lighter or white streak for all the cells developed through divisions from the cell where the jump originated. This hypothesis is strengthened by the conversion of '**Beverly Sills**' into '**Beverly in White**' (Harris 94, TB), most likely by a back mutation to change the single recessive (ic) allele back into the dominant (IC) allele. The genotype would change from (ic IC IC IC) to (IC IC IC IC) and the phenotype would change from pink to white.

There are many examples of families of genes in microbes, animals,

and plants that have replicated linearly on the same chromosome and then changed over time to serve different functions. The most logical scenario to explain the steps of the jumping of the transposons in broken color bearded irises is that they can move to adjacent loci on the same chromosome and inactivate the dominant or recessive allele that their DNA strand is inserted into. Bryan Spoon selfed a BC and obtained a BC with two tones of jade splashed as in **'Tiger Honey'** yet added large pure white wedges with deep purple centers. The two tones of jade streaks and splashes could have been caused by the transposon detaching from the (IA ia ia ia) and jumping to the dominant plicata allele (PL pl pl pl) inactivating it so the cells changed from anthocyanin to lighter. Other proposed jumps could have created this two-tone jade streaks and splashes. Less often the transposon could jump to the adjacent dominant (A) self pattern locus to inactivate the one dominant (Aaaa) allele turning the next divided cells white. The final jump off the (A) allele would allow it to reactivate and produce the deep purple centers, the bishop purple color of **'Dusky Challenger'**, for example.

The pollen parent to produce color-breakers does not have to be three or four doses of plicata. The pollen parent needs only be two doses of plicata, as in our pink and lavender bicolor **'Little John'** (Spoon 96, TB), which reblooms in zone 9, out of the pink **'Damsel'** (Shoop 83, TB) and Earl Hall's very dependable violet plicata rebloomer, **'Queen Dorothy'** (84, TB). We used modern formed **'Little John'** as pollen on the rebloomer **'Peach Jam'** (Ensminger 89, TB) and got the rebloomer BB **'Raspberry Silk'** (Spoon 00) and on BC **'Autumn Years'** to produce our BC **'Liger'** (Spoon 95, TB) with yellow standards and variegated falls. We produced the BC **'Zekie'** (Spoon 07, TB) from **'Brindled Beauty'** X **'Little John'**. We showed that you can also use a luminata-glaciata like our rebloomer **'Daughter of Stars'** (Spoon 01, TB) (**'DOS'**) with two doses of luminata and glaciata (lu lu gl gl) to produce BCs. Ensminger sdg. #293-48 X **'DOS'** produced a tangerine bearded BC seedling that reblooms in zone 6. This also shows us that **'DOS'** that has tangerine at the base of the beards is homozygous recessive (ttt) at the tangerine locus for lycopene. Kasperek has shown that BCs can be produced using glaciatas (gl gl gl gl) as pollen parents. If we had a cultivar we knew was a four dose luminata would it produce color-breakers as a pollen parent when crossed on color-breakers?

One of the goals to produce a reliably reblooming space-age BC has been reached by Michael Sutton with his uniquely lovely 2007 TB **'Breaking Point'** using **'Momentous Occasion'** (Sutton 00, TB) as the pollen parent. This bloomed for us this fall on a 35" stalk. One of the most beautiful and popular BCs in our yard is Virginia Keyser's 2000 TB **'Ziggy'** with 33" stalks. **'Ziggy'** is a reliable rebloomer in California. It is out of Frank Jones' dark purple, reliable cold climate rebloomer **'Autumn Bugler'** (86, TB) with two

doses of plicata and the BB plicata **'Faux Pas'** (Keppel 90). **'Ziggy'** offers a new avenue to color-breakers. Fred Kerr has reported that in his California garden he has BCs occurring spontaneously each year.¹⁸ We hope he will be introducing some in the future. Broken color goes back to historic like **'Honorabile'** (Lemon 1840, MTB) that sported **'Kaleidoscope'** (Katkamier 29, MTB) that is widely grown and cherished.¹⁹

Celestar at the plicata locus, Purple-Based Foliage, and Variegated Foliage: A little known and little studied recessive allele considered to be at the plicata locus is the celestar pattern where an irregular anthocyanin wash occurs on the bases of the falls where they exposed to sunlight in the budding flower. After the flower opens, the anthocyanin wash tends to disappear. Charlie Nearpass had this trait in some of his seedlings, and Vincent Christopherson is making progress with this celestar pattern. The genes expressing the traits for anthocyanin washes on the spathes and stalks that are prevalent in plicatas are not on the plicata locus. They are probably alleles at the same gene locus as the dominant gene for purple-based foliage (PBF). Ginny crossed two PBF seedlings and increased the anthocyanin pigmentation four-fold up the fan covering nearly one-third the length of the fan. Possibly, we can eventually have this purple pigmentation cover all the green surfaces of the iris plant. Purple based foliage on variegated foliage TBs can produce five different colors (purple, white, cream, light green, and green). This variegated cut foliage is in high demand by the florist industry and could provide a potentially lucrative commercial market. In cultivars like **'Quite the Same'** (Ensminger 02, TB) where the spathes remain green, the multicolor streaks in the stalks, spathes, and buds are spectacular. We still do not have a modern-formed variegated BC flower on vigorous, variegated foliage. Allan Ensminger has produced such seedlings, but none have met his standards for introduction.

Luminata-Plicatas or Lumi-Plics, the Fanciata pattern: When only plicata and luminata alleles make up the genotype, we call the flower a luminata-plicata or lumi-plic for short. Historically, they were called fancies or fancy plicatas. I call this the fanciata pattern. The fanciata (lumi-plic) varies from a four dose plicata by having an anthocyanin wash on the ground of the falls with the veins appearing white or lighter as in **'Test Pattern'** (Ghio 90, TB). This anthocyanin wash can be almost as light as the veins or so dark that the light veins are invisible except when back lit. The intensity of this wash is probably controlled by a modifier gene with dosage effects. In the fanciata (lumi-plic) pattern there is no white or carotenoid color around the beards or

18 Fred Kerr, 2004. Tall Talk #7/2:36-37.

19 Clarence Mahan, 2007. Classic Irises and the Men and Women Who Created Them. Krieger Pub. Co. pages 57-65.

on the edges of the petals as seen in the luminata pattern as described below. The fanciata (lumi-plic) pattern in different cultivars may or may not have the haft marks of anthocyanin veins and dots between them which are lacking in the luminata pattern.

Glaciata Pattern: Glaciatas, formerly called ices, have four doses of recessive white (formerly pl superscript a, for all white) which we will conveniently designate as (gl gl gl gl). They can be white or any carotenoid color or color pattern so the original designation is a misnomer. Glaciatas have a remarkable translucent, glowing quality as the anthocyanin is totally absent and can not adulterate the bright carotenoid colors, muddy the light pastel colors, or grey the whiteness of the flower. In glaciatas there is no anthocyanin pigmentation even at the bases of the falls.²⁰

Luminata Pattern as Luminata-glaciata: The luminata pattern has been defined as marbled distribution of anthocyanin in the falls and a pale anthocyanin wash at the ends of the style arms with white or lighter veins in the falls creating the “marbled” effect, white or lighter edges of the petals, and white or carotenoid area around and in the beards that have no anthocyanin pigmentation.²¹ Many of the introduced luminatas, such as ‘Clarence’ (Zurbrigg 91, TB), ‘Daughter of Stars’, ‘Fancy Woman’ (Keppel 95, TB), and ‘Mind Reader’ (Keppel 94, TB) when crossed together can produce one out of 36 glaciatas which is the expected tetraploid production of (aaaa) for an (aabb X aabb) cross. The luminata allele ranks higher than the glaciata in the hierarchy of these two recessive alleles. This leads one to the inescapable conclusion that each of these luminatas has the genotype (lu lu gl gl). This means that the luminata pattern is really a luminata-glaciata with the luminata alleles expressing the anthocyanin wash in the falls and white or lighter veins while the glaciata allele is expressing the white area around the beards and on the edges of the petals. We might expect to see a (lu lu lu gl) genotype to have a different expression than a (lu gl gl gl) genotype, the latter with wider and more prominent lighter edges. Keith Keppel has seedlings that clearly have the luminata pattern yet produce no glaciata offspring when crossed on a glaciata. The test cross of a glaciata on a one dose luminata (lu gl gl gl) showing the luminata pattern would be 1 glaciata in 2, while the glaciata crossed on the three dose luminata (lu lu lu gl) would be under the very best random conditions only 1 glaciata in 24. Crossing two seedlings with the genotype (lu lu lu gl) would have a very low (1 in 576) production of four dose glaciatas requiring one to grow a thousand or

20 Keith Keppel, 1994. “Plicata, Luminata – and Glaciata?” Bulletin 249(3):27-28.

21 Stahly, Keppel, and Nelson, 1990. “The Luminata Color Pattern” Bulletin #277:21-22.

more seedlings with little hope of success. In contrast, if you are crossing one dose "dominant"(lu) recessive allele (lu gl gl gl) X (lu gl gl gl) the chance of getting a four dose glaciata is 1 in 4.

Four Dose Recessive Luminata: What is the phenotypic expression for a four dose luminata, and has the four dose luminata genotype ever been obtained? Would it have just light veins on anthocyanin pigmented falls with no white area around the beards or on the edges of the petals? One suggestion, yet hard to explain, is that the four dose luminata creates a lethal. If you crossed the four dose luminata on a four dose glaciata you would obtain all luminata-glaciatas or what is called the luminata pattern. There would be no glaciatas. Why would we expect the luminata alleles to behave so very differently when paired with the glaciata alleles in the luminata pattern than when paired with the plicata alleles in the fanciata (lumi-plic) pattern? Jim Gibson had many plicata cultivars with light veins that I believe is the main expression of the luminata allele indicating one to three luminata alleles were present; yet, according to Keith Keppel, in correspondence, Gibson never had a luminata patterned cultivar like '**Mind Reader**' appear in his seedbeds.²² Maybe there is a modifier gene at a separate gene locus that must be present in four recessive doses for a glaciata (gl gl gl gl) to be produced. It is possible that some of Barry Blyth's cultivars with light veins in the anthocyanin pigmented falls and no white around the beards or petal edges may be four dose luminatas. This could be demonstrated if they produced the luminata pattern (luminata-glaciata, lu lu gl gl) when crossed on a four dose glaciata like our vigorous, modern formed '**Wilma**' (Spoon 05, TB) out of '**Clarence**' X '**Fancy Woman**'. Blyth's '**Decadence**' (Blyth 04/05, TB) has light veins and light edges on the falls like a luminata, yet anthocyanin around the beards. What is its genotype? '**Colorscape**' (Innerst 89, TB), from '**Caramba**' (with lighter falls veins), X '**Dreaming Rainbows**' (with lighter falls veins) produced our sdg. #2000-172A that may be a four dose luminata. This 38" tall variegata (IAs) with sun burst zonal (sb) has anthocyanin haft marks beside the beards and no plicata border, tangerine tipped beards (tttt) and bright red-orange color in the falls.

Hybridizing irises will always be more art than science. The mysteries remaining will always be greater than what we can understand. Seeing my first iris seedling open its first flower at 4 a.m., lit by my idling car lights, was pure magic. That weekend, I took the stalk to Clarence Mahan to appraise. He said, "It is a good garden iris." Irises have given me more healthful exercise than any gym or trainer. Like a child at joyful play, blooming and crossing irises will always be to me great, good fun! Try it, you will like it. 

²² Keith Keppel, 1994. "Some Notes on the Gibson Plicatas" Bulletin #292:26-30.

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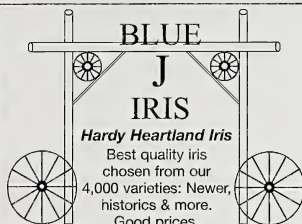
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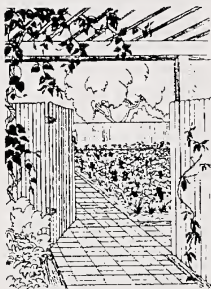
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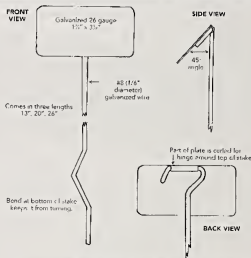
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Bulletin of the American Iris Society

ISSN 0747-4172

Volume LXXXIX, No. 3 Series No. 350

July 2008

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The *Bulletin of the American Iris Society* is published quarterly by The American Iris Society. Publishing Office, 10606 Timber Ridge Street, Dubuque, IA 52001-8268. Periodical postage paid at Dubuque, IA, and at additional mailing offices. Subscription price is included in membership dues. All copy due in Editor's office by Nov. 15 (Jan.), Feb. 15 (April), May 15 (July), Aug 15 (October). This *Bulletin* was printed by Bridgetown Printing. Copyright © 2008 The American Iris Society.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Bulletin of the American Iris Society, 10606 Timber Ridge Street, Dubuque, IA 52001-8268

How to reach the American Iris Society:

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The American Iris Society

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THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY IS A NONPROFIT INSTITUTION INCORPORATED February 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the Iris.

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Species Iris Group (SIGNA)	12.00	32.00	12.00	32.00
Dwarf Iris Society	6.00	15.00	8.00	18.00
Historic Iris Preservation Society	10.00	24.00	12.00	30.00
Aril Society International	10.00	28.00	13.50	33.50
Society for Louisiana Irises	13.00	32.00	16.00	44.00

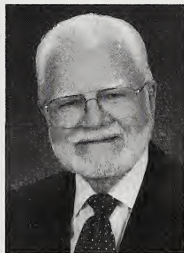
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President's Message

By E. Roy Epperson, North Carolina

During the International Geophysical Year (eighteen months in 1957-58) one of the interesting bits of data gathered was the indication that the atmosphere was heating up. This came to be known as Global Warming and now 50 years later there seems to be little doubt that the atmosphere is indeed increasing in average temperature as a result of increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide from burning of fossil fuels and we are experiencing hotter than "normal" periods. Perhaps the better term is "climate change" rather than Global Warming. The scientific climate models project increasing temperatures, increased frequency of storms, rainfall and floods and droughts, and a moving of temperature zones to the North. This means that the USDA climate zone map of 1990 is out of date and needs to be revised. Work is being done on this and an updated map will probably be published this fall. Plant hardiness zones are based on the average of the lowest temperature recorded each winter for a period of time. Data indicate that in the past 18 years plant hardiness zones are moving to the North. There is little doubt that climate change is changing how you and I garden. If you keep records of peak bearded iris bloom time, you have probably noticed that peak time is occurring earlier in the season. Here in Central North Carolina, peak TB bloom time has moved forward 7 to 10 days over the past two decades.



Recently, I received two letters that I would like to share with you.

- "My name is Betty Ferrell and I am the current president of the Piney Woods Iris & Daylily Society in Mt. Pleasant, TX. I have just returned from attending the 2008 American Iris Society National Convention held in Austin, Texas. I wanted to write and tell you how enjoyable and informative the convention was and to also congratulate the local Austin Iris Society on the exemplary job they did in hosting this meeting. Everything was well organized, presented on time, moved along very quickly and the tours that were arranged were all excellent."

- From Sidney Linnegar: "Thank you for awarding me the Warburton Medal, such a prestigious award I felt I had to be there in person to collect it; and happily my son Paul agreed to accompany me and fund the trip so this then became possible. Thank you once again, I am sure many better deserve this medal than me but my medal will be in a place of honour. Please pass on my thanks to all for an enjoyable and informative conference, to all the garden hosts and for the hospitality shown to me and my son, who enjoyed himself so much he wants to bring me over to another convention in the future, so I hope I may meet you all again."

Plaudits to:

- Rita Gormley and all the workers who have made the Silent Auction a success with generating income of \$74,396 for the period 1998-2008. Barbara and John Sautner will become co-chairs of this committee.
- Janet and Jim Giles, who have served as Exhibitions co-Chairs for the past 3 years. They have tendered their resignation effective with the end of this calendar year. We need to replace these hard workers. Volunteers?
- Paul Gossett, Convention Liaison, and Terry Aitken for facilitating the invitation for the 2011 AIS Convention to be held in Victoria, British Columbia, with tentative dates of May 30-June 3, 2011. 

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Annual President's Letter

The American Iris Society, Inc.

June 1, 2008

The terms of one-third of the twelve American Iris Society Directors expire annually.

As provided in the AIS Bylaws, each year a five-member Nominating Committee recommends to the AIS Board of Directors a selection of candidates for nomination as directors. From this list the incumbent Board of Directors chooses by written ballot a slate of four candidates to be presented to the membership to fill the vacating positions.

The Nominating Committee consists of five members selected each year by their respective parent bodies to serve for one year: two directors are selected by the Board of Directors, two RVPs are selected by the Board of Counselors, and one section representative is selected by the Section Advisory Board.

Approved by the incumbent directors during the 2008 spring meeting held in Austin, Texas, in accordance with AIS Bylaws, the following four individuals are the 2008 nominees for regular three-year terms expiring in the fall of 2011:

Cheryl Deaton (Region 15)

Jerry Coates (Region 4)

Rita Gormley (Region 21)

Gary White (Region 21)

AIS Bylaws provide that additional nominations may be made by any forty members, of whom not more than 15 may be located in any one region. Such additional nominations must be received by the AIS Secretary on or before August 31, 2008.

Should additional nominations be made, a ballot on which all nominees are listed will be mailed on or before September 30, 2008, to all AIS members, and must be received by the AIS Secretary or Election Committee (if one is appointed) before October 29, 2008.

If there are no additional nominations to those listed above, issuance of a ballot shall be omitted and the original nominees considered elected.

E. Roy Epperson, President
The American Iris Society, Inc.

Editor's Message

By Terry Aitken, Washington

We have had a committee reviewing *Bulletin* content for a couple of years and the results are beginning to evolve. Past January issues tended to be full of biographies, memorials and required announcements. The RVP biographies have been eliminated and Jim Morris is condensing memorials. The result is much more room for articles of interest to the general membership. We have received quite a good response from our readers on a number of different topics.

A major response had to do with the "Glitter" article. In this issue, Jean Witt explains the phenomenon from her observations. Glitter is not restricted to TB's. I have seen it on medians and other garden plants. If anyone has input on 'glitter' in beardless irises, I would happy to hear about your observations, or better yet, send an article to share with our membership.

With the increased space for articles in the bulletin comes an increased work load for the editors. Many thanks to Jim Morris for his work on Memorials and Section Happenings and also for providing photos from the Section Conventions. Thanks, also, to Rita Gormley for taking on the free-lance assignments of rounding up garden writers for the national Convention, tracking down photos of particular cultivars and contacting writers for CULTURE CORNER. Thanks, also, to Kelly Norris for photographic assistance at the National Convention.

With this issue, we are going to try binding the Symposium Ballot into the book which represents a saving of approximately \$1200 plus postage (weight) and stuffing them into the shrink wrap. There is no need to cut anything out of the *Bulletin*. Simply list your 25 favorite irises on a piece of paper using the identifying numbers only – no names. In the case of family memberships, each individual will have to assemble their own list of 25 numbers. This list of numbers can be sent to your RVP via e-mail or mail a post card/ letter with your name and address on it to your RVP. Please let us know what you think about this method of communication. The E-world is hovering! 

SEE PAGE 100 FOR YOUR SYMPOSIUM BALLOT

Milestones

Compiled by Jim Morris, Missouri

Earlier in the year I sent an insert about this column via the club affiliation process. The first response almost immediately was from Nora O'Connor, president of the Birmingham Area Iris Society in Region 24, Alabama and Mississippi. She was happy to report that BAIS was having their 50th anniversary with a tea party which was subsequently held on April 20, 2008. One of the charter members from 1958, Joe Langdon, was in attendance as the members planned for the Region 24 Regional Convention to be held in Birmingham April 25, 2009.

This column was created for our affiliates and is an excellent means for them to publicize their society/club news, events and milestones within AIS. My contact information is always listed in the front of the AIS *Bulletin* under **Section Liaison**. Copy deadlines are also listed therein.

The second person to respond was John Baker from the Madison Area Iris Society in Region 8, Minnesota and Wisconsin. John reported that their society held a planting party on May 3, 2008 to permanently locate some of the 2007 "heeled-in" plants from their temporary location. Despite 40-degree weather, occasional drizzling rain and winds up to 35 miles per hour, all 700 plus varieties were planted by 4:00 p.m. That demonstrates dedication by the local members. The garden, which is called Skyline Gardens, was originally planted with 350 varieties of iris in the fall of 2006, and now has well over 1,000 varieties. It will be one of the tour gardens for the "Mad About Iris" 2010 AIS Convention, which will be held in Madison, WI for the first time in the (by then) 90-year history of AIS. Convention Chairman, John Baker, said, "Skyline Gardens is one of six gardens which will be featured during the 2010 convention, and that five of them have over 1,000 varieties each, without the addition of 'guest irises.'" Baker went on to say, "The sixth garden is Rotary Gardens, a botanical garden of renown, which will feature 500 guest irises in a most lovely lakeside display, complete with a wishing-well. We are very lucky and privileged to have Rotary on board as one of our tour gardens."

In Memoriam

Vernon D. Wood

(February 9, 1918 – February 22, 2008)

Wood, 90, of Chico, CA in Region 14, was a native Californian who lived a long life and was noted for his iris hybridizing hobby. Vern was a graduate of the University of California – Berkeley with a BS in Chemistry. He was an avid fan of Cal football. He served as a Captain in the U.S. Army as part of the Alaska Defense Command. Wood registered 60 irises and introduced 54 including four CAs with Teri Hudson and one AB (OGB) with Jim Whitely. His first introduction was 'Camera Shy' a TB in 1991. He registered 32 CAs, 25 TBs, two SDBs and the one AB. His irises were awarded thirteen HMs and four AMs. His AMs were 'April In Paris' TB, 'Pink Cupid' CA, 'Pink Starlet' TB, and my favorite 'Silver Fox' TB. Wood is survived by his son, David; daughter, Diane; and granddaughter, Erika.

Anthony Willott (formerly Salvatore Antonio Gugliotta)

(June 3, 1926 – March 22, 2008)

Willott, 81, of Beachwood, OH in Region 6, was the husband for 55 years of his iris partner Dorothy A. (nee McClintock) Willott. In addition to his wife he is survived by his son Anthony J. and daughter Catherine A.; a granddaughter Dominique E.; brothers-in-law, Robert W. Jender, James E. McClintock, Jr.; sister-in-law, Martha Jean Hoffman (Dick); and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great nephews. He was preceded by his late sister Teresa C. Jender; and his parents Nicola and Catherine (nee Guerra) Gugliotta. Most iris people were probably surprised to read his former name, a change which occurred shortly before he and Dorothy married. It resulted from childhood teasing. When Tony came of age he decided that if physicist Guglielmo Marconi could change his name to William then he could Americanize a new name as well. Therefore, he took the first four letters of **William** and three of the last four letters of **Gugliotta** to form **Willott**. Dorothy relates the humorous story that when they started dating and she only knew him as Willott, she came to Cleveland to visit but couldn't find him in the phone book so didn't know what to think. Did he really exist? All was well when she learned of the name change.

Tony served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and retired from the U.S. Department of Defense with 41 years of service. He held degrees from Baldwin-Wallace College and Case Western Reserve University. He and Dorothy were always a team in their iris hybridizing and other

iris service. Together they introduced 347 irises through this year with more than that registered. They have won 114 HMs, 18 AMs and three Caparne-Welch Medals for the MDBs 'Alpine Lake', 'Pussytoes', and 'Little Drummer Boy'. They were awarded the AIS Hybridizer's Medal in 1999. Together they have been active in the North East Ohio Iris Society, Region 6, DIS, MIS and AIS. They each were past presidents of the Median Iris Society.

Virginia Alice Messick

(January 15, 1916 – April 18, 2008)

Messick, 92, of Walnut Creek, CA in Region 14 was a native Californian born in Santa Paula and raised in the Silverlake district of Los Angeles. She graduated from John Marshall High School in Los Angeles, then attended UCLA for two years and UC Berkeley for two years, graduating in 1939 with a bachelors degree in Public Health. She met the love of her life, William (Bill) Messick while they were both serving in the U.S. Navy at Mare Island Shipyard. They raised a family of three children, Larry, Laurie and Roger, Bill was an itinerant oilfield engineer for Chevron and Virginia supervised seven family moves that included stints in Connecticut and Texas before retirement in Walnut Creek. As an avid gardener the moves included her garden plants. She was a member of AIS for over 50 years and is believed to hold the all-time record of attending 48 consecutive AIS Conventions throughout America. Virginia hybridized irises with 29 registrations. She won twelve HMs, five AMs with 'Aladdin's Flame' SDB, 'Calling Card' IB, 'Shampoo' IB, which also won the Sass Medal in 1984, 'Swing And Sway' TB, and 'Voltage' TB. Virginia was also a member of Planned Parenthood for about 50 years. In addition to her husband Bill, she is survived by her three children, nine grandchildren and one great grandchild. ♪

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Section Happenings

By Jim Morris, Section Liaison Consultant, Missouri

This spring began early for us (although spring bloom in most parts of the country was two weeks behind the norm) with attendance at the Louisiana Iris Convention in Lafayette, LA, April 10-13. This was our first time attending an SLI spring meeting and tour and we enjoyed it very much. *Merci beaucoup* to Acadiana Chapter officers Joe Musacchia and Jim Leonard as well as SLI officers Paul Gossett and Ron Killingsworth for making our visit so memorable.

Splash!

It was even more memorable for Nyla Hughes who accompanied us from St. Louis. She took the optional boat ride through the Lake Martin bird rookery where the guide eased through the cypress trees alongside a so-called "partially blind" twelve foot bull alligator. The big ole gator swung his tail against the boat drenching everyone and the lady seated in front of Nyla let out a blood-curdling scream that could be heard for miles. The story has been repeated many times since their hasty retreat.

The SLI event included a short visual program at the Jean Lafitte Center on the migration of the Acadians from Nova Scotia to South Louisiana, and a visit to Vermilionville, a recreated historical site showing life in the Acadiana area between 1765 and 1890. At Vermilionville everyone boarded boats for a ride up the Vermilion Bayou with Captain Dan, a cajun who happened to be a Master Gardener and grower of watermelons. Garden tours included visits to the Jim Leonard and Ron Betzer gardens, the Baton Rouge Botanical Gardens where the late Joe Mertzweiller's vision of growing Louisiana irises for the local citizens and visitors is being carried out, and the LSU rural life museum and Windrush Gardens.

Louisiana Convention Iris Show

The SLI 67th Annual Iris Show was held during convention with Gordon Rabalais as show chairman and resident diplomat. We helped judge the show and after the AIS awards were made the identity of the Best Specimen and Best Seedling were concealed and put back in place. Then SLI members entered and voted for the Ira S. Nelson (outstanding registered and introduced iris) and the Ray and Katherine Cornay (outstanding seedling in short, medium and tall classes as well as overall best seedling) Awards. Fortunately for us the SLI members agreed with the AIS judges. Whew. The collected fulvas entered by

Maurice (Buddy) Manuel were especially impressive and I look forward to receipt of the promised yellow clone.

I attended the SLI Board meeting and listened to the pros and cons regarding SLI's 2007 inquiry on the potential of changing from a cooperating society to a section of AIS. Further investigation and discussion was recommended via the *Fleur de Lis* and the Section/Cooperating Society meeting to be held the next week at the AIS Convention in Austin, TX. New officers were elected with Harry Wolford as president, Ron Killingsworth as vice-president, Earline Sudduth as secretary and Bobbie Ann Hutchins as Treasurer.

AIS Convention

The Section/Cooperating Society meeting in Austin, TX was attended by all except the Reblooming Iris Society. Present were society presidents, membership secretaries and editors. Items covered included the joint AIS/section membership proposal passed by the groups except the Spuria Iris Society which forgot to vote in their meeting. However, as an action item it was agreed that the AIS Board should establish a committee to look at a membership proposal to give discounts for three-year memberships with the cost burden shared by AIS and the sections. ASI requested that Anita Moran be included on the committee.

The Canadian Iris Society request before AIS to become a cooperating society was discussed in detail before its presentation and discussion at the AIS Board meeting. The relationship between CIS and Region 16 of AIS was enlightening to many. The status of the Society for Louisiana Irises potential change from cooperating society to section was reported (see above).

Editorial usage of proper horticulture standards as established by the International Committee on Horticulture was recommended to all sections and cooperating societies. These standards are administered by the International Association for Plant Taxonomy in their Journal *Taxon*, and online via JSTOR and are embraced by AIS. This means cultivar listings as 'Green Spot' (Cook 59), that is single quotation mark, Upper and Lower Case, non-bold and non-italic – **not** as GREEN SPOT, GREEN SPOT, **Green Spot**, *Green Spot*, etc. Also any listing of species irises should be as *I. pumila*, all in italic with Upper Case "I" for Iris.

Society for Siberian Irises president Judy Hollingworth was elected as Section representative for the AIS Nominating Committee.

Aril and Median Trek

Titled "Enchanted Treasures" the trek held April 27-30 in Region 23 in Albuquerque, NM was a wonder of bloom after the disappointment of sparse bloom in Austin. We were welcomed by the Albuquerque Aril & Iris Society president Valerie White and the ever present Convention

chairman Cindy Rivera. Cindy was a dynamo who solved every problem. The guest gardens of Scott & Reita Jordan and Peter McGrath were stunning with their pure arils and arilbreds. Valerie White's Median Iris Society Display Garden was equally stunning for the variety and scope of median irises in bloom.

Future Section Conventions

Continuing my standard practice, here is a listing of all future mini-conventions as the Sections and Cooperating Societies report them.

Society for Louisiana Irises

April 23-26, 2009, Shreveport, LA

April 22-24, 2010, Dallas, TX

Society for Japanese Irises

July 3-5, 2008, Kalamazoo, MI

Siberian/Species

June 11-14, 2009, Twin Cities Area, MN

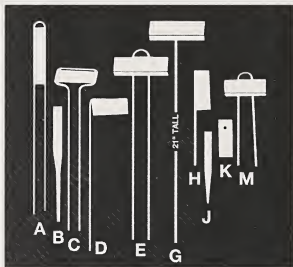
Spuria Iris Society

June 2010, Portland, OR

Society For Japanese Irises

2012, Portland, OR 

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Youth Views

Cheryl Deaton, California

The 2008 AIS Convention in Austin, Texas was a wonderful experience. I enjoyed getting to know six Youth members and their families during the various activities. The winner of the Clarke Cosgrove Award for Youth Achievement, 14 year old Gabriel Lockhart, attended his first convention. Unfortunately, his experience getting there could have been better. Apparently his good shoes and some socks were removed from his suitcase during an inspection, and they didn't get put back in, so poor Gabe had to wear the same pair of tennis shoes all the time. It was lucky that his mom, Angie, was able to buy more socks!

Texas residents Alex and Claire Harding (brother & sister) attended the Youth reception and the Youth Pizza Party. Have you ever heard of the irises Awesome Alex and Classy Claire by Tom Burseen? Well, Alex and Claire are their namesakes! How terrific to have an iris named after you. Another youth member, Jordan Stirling and his mom, Linda attended many of the activities at the convention. I first met them at the Portland, Oregon convention a few years ago. Kelsey Best from Maine attended the convention with her aunt, Linda Ridlon. Ackerman Essay Contest winner in the 12 years old and under age group, Joan Huggins, attended the Awards banquet with her family. They live in Hico, Texas.

I think everyone enjoyed themselves as much as I did. It was nice having so many youth members and their families participate in the convention. I hope many of you plan to attend one of the future conventions so that I can get to know you better. Thanks to all the Austin Convention Committee members who made our stay so much fun.

Here are the winning entries in this year's Ackerman Essay Contest.

"Mary Huggins – The Woman Who Shaped My Passion for Irises"

by Joan Huggins, age 12

Ever since I can remember, my grandmother Mary Huggins has had many kinds of plants in and around her house. Of them all, the flowers I have always been most drawn to were the irises. As my interest in them first began to develop, my grandmother began teaching me about these gorgeous plants. Sometimes, when I visited her, we would sit down

together and look at her iris catalogs, commenting on how beautiful each flower was and each of us picking out our favorites.

As time went by, my grandmother taught me that each different type of iris had a name and then started tutoring me about spoons, flounces, and beards and she would use a real blossom as a model. Next thing I knew, I was looking through her bookshelves; they have always been full of plant books. I would bring home stacks of books and read nonstop. As I did this, what had started out as a small interest developed into a deep passion.

About a year of this went by. As you can imagine, I was overjoyed when my grandmother asked me if I would go with her to the Johnson County Iris Society, of which she is a former president. I became the first youth member and was able to learn even more by attending the Society meetings and shows, further enhancing my knowledge and love of the plants. I also learned what wonderful people were involved in iris cultivation and I have developed new friends through the Society.

Last year, my grandmother put me in touch with some iris cultivators in Utah who graciously allowed me to pick out any plants I wanted from their catalog, which they sent me for free. Between those plants and some from my grandmother's garden, I have started building my own iris garden. My garden is still growing bigger and I am looking forward to the first blooms of spring. I couldn't have done any of this if my grandmother hadn't been there for me, leading me and teaching me every step of the way. I forgot to mention, my grandmother can only see the irises through her peripheral vision as she is legally blind with macular degeneration. Yet how she has opened my eyes!

"The Person Who Influenced My Love of Irises"

by Gabriel Lockhart, age 14

My name is Gabriel Lockhart and I have been growing Irises since before age five. I had first gotten into Irises by following my Grandfather around and helping him plant Irises that he laid down. He showed me how deep to plant them and how far apart. I remember taking my little shovel and digging a hole in the dirt, pouring some water in, adding some more dirt, putting in the iris and covering the rhizome. I would then stand back and look at it and sometimes say, 'oops, too deep.' Each Spring I would go out and work in the garden with my grandpa, grandma, and my mother, making this a family affair. I started my own little garden with my favorite irises, joined the local iris club and started entering irises in the youth division of the local iris show. I am now 14 and have over fifty varieties in my garden.

During my childhood I had learned a lot about Irises. I had learned about how to plant them, grow them, and take care of them. Last Spring, I got my very own tiller. He taught me how to use it and we dug and tilled up quite a bit for some new gardens. He has even taught me how to hybridize Irises. He showed me some of the seedlings that he and my grandmother had made and told me about the process. Then he said if I were really interested in hybridizing I should talk to a well known hybridizer. It just happens that we are lucky enough to have a well known hybridizer in our local iris chapter, Dave Niswonger. I enjoy the presentations that Dave gives and appreciate the times that he takes to talk to me. He talked to me about genes and hybridizing. I feel I have learned so much, yet, I know there is so much more to learn.

My Grandfather is the person I have chosen to write about in the essay. He is the person who has most influenced my love of Irises. I have my grandfather to thank for taking me out to the garden with him when I was little. He's the one that gave me my first shovel and my first irises to plant. He's the one who got me to join the local iris club and introduced me to other people who love irises and hybridize them. Just as my irises and my garden has grown, my love for irises has grown. Thank you Grandpa!

The Spring issue of the Youth newsletter, The Iris Fan, has gone out to all of the youth members in AIS. There was an error in the ZZZZZZZZ word search puzzle on the back page. The corrected puzzle is on the Youth website, www.youth-iris.com in the Miscellaneous section. I apologize for the error. This year's Coloring Contest picture will be on the youth website in August, and will be included in the Summer/Fall issue of The Iris Fan. The picture was sent to me by Region 21 Youth Chairman, George Green. Entries for the Coloring Contest must be postmarked by October 1st. I hope many of you decide to enter. Don't forget!

I hope many of you have entered the AIS Photo Contest. I am terrible with a camera, but I keep trying. Now that I have a new digital camera I don't waste as much film, and my camera came with an "anti-wiggle" function, which means my pictures of iris flowers look like irises instead of blurry color splotches! I am still learning, and I am getting better.

I hope you all had a wonderful bloom season and until we meet again, Happy Irising! 

Request For Guest Beardless Irises

AIS Convention, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada 2011

The British Columbia Iris Society will host the American Iris Society Convention in Victoria in 2011 from May 30th to June 4th. Hybridizers of beardless varieties are invited to send rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings under consideration for introduction. Please observe the following guidelines when sending guest irises as only officially submitted guest irises will appear in the convention booklet.

Up to three rhizomes of each variety and not more than 48 plants from each hybridizer, will be accepted, shipped to arrive after September 14 and before September 18, 2008. [Note: Pacific Coast Iris can be shipped later by special arrangement]

US hybridizers may ship plants to:

Patrick Spence
C/O A Plus Products
21828 87th Ave SE
Suite C-2
Woodinville, WA 98072

Other hybridizers and any US hybridizers who wish to may ship plants the same week to:

Karen Phillips
2-804 Pemberton Road,
Victoria, BC
V8S 3R4
CANADA

All packages being sent into Canada **MUST** have a Phytosanitary Certificate attached. Also, mark the package as a Gift to prevent taxes being charged and place a modest value on the plants to reduce any Brokerage fees being charged by the delivery company. .

The name of the variety or seedling number should be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition, the following information should accompany each plant on a separate packing list:

- Hybridizer's name and address
- Name or seedling number of the variety
- Type of iris (Sib, Spu, etc.)
- Height, color, distinguishing features
- Bloom season (EML)
- Year of introduction (if applicable)

If a guest seedling is later named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairman by December 1, 2010.

A receipt will be mailed to all contributors. Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instruction regarding the disposition of the plants. Failure to reply by June 15th, 2011 will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings, and distribute named varieties, one to garden owners and the rest to the British Columbia Iris Society. Returns will be sent freight paid to Canadian addresses. International addresses, including USA, will be charged for Phytosanitary Certificate and shipping.

The Convention Committee and the owners of tour gardens will strictly adhere to the code of ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook. ♪



In May 2011, the S.F.I.B. (*Société Française des Iris et Plantes Bulbeuses*), the French Iris Society, will be organising an international tall bearded iris competition called "FRANCIRIS® 2011" in Jouy-en-Josas. The competition will be held with the technical support of TECOMAH, *l'École de l'Environnement et*

du Cadre de Vie, a horticultural college affiliated to the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Our society will be highly honoured if you agree to send us some of your new hybrids for this competition. The necessary documents for your entry can be found on the following web page: <http://www.iris-bulbeuses.org/FRANCIRIS/2011.htm>.

The irises accepted for the competition must be sent to TECOMAH in September 2008.

We look forward to receiving your application for participation in this international competition.

—Sylvain RUAUD

Request For Guest Japanese Irises

2011 – Japanese Iris Convention

The Greater Portland Iris Society is hosting the Japanese Iris Convention, in Portland, Oregon, June 2011. Hybridizers of *Iris Ensata* and related hybrids are invited to send recent introductions and/or seedlings under serious consideration.

Shipments will be accepted:

September 15, 2008 thru October 15, 2008

Send guest plants to:

Terry & Barbara Aitken

608 NW 119th Street; Vancouver, Washington 98685-3802

360-573-4472; aitken@flowerfantasy.net

Guidelines: Up to three divisions of each variety may be submitted. The name of the variety or seedling number must be clearly marked on each division. In addition, a packing list with the following information must be enclosed:

1. Hybridizers name, address, email, phone number
2. Name or seedling number of variety
3. Description, distinguishing characteristics, diploid, tetraploid, hybrid, bloom season: E,M,L.

If a guest seedling is named subsequent to shipping to the convention, it is the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chairman no later than January 1, 2011.

A receipt will be sent to all contributors. Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding disposition of guest plants. Options are destruction, donation to the Japanese Iris Convention for auction, or return. Failure to reply by July 15, 2011, will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings and distribute named varieties; one to garden owner, and the rest to the Greater Portland Iris Society for fundraising purposes. Returns will be sent in the fall of 2011 post paid, except to foreign addresses.

Only officially submitted guest iris will appear in the convention booklet. The Convention Committee and the owners of guest iris gardens will follow the code of ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook. 

AIS Calendar:

CONVENTIONS

2009: May 11-16

Kansas City, MO
 Chair: Debora Hughes
 3395 Utah Road
 Wellsville, KS 66092
 (785) 883-4737
 dhughes936@myvine.com

Headquarters:

Doubletree Hotel Overland Park
 10100 College Boulevard
 Overland Park, KS 66210
 (913) 451-6100

2010: May 31-June 5

Madison, WI
 Chair: John Baker
 4601 CTH TT
 Sun Prairie, WI 53590
 (608) 825-7423
 johnwbaker1@verizon.net

Headquarters:

Madison Marriott West Hotel
 1313 John Q. Hammons Drive
 Middleton, WI 53562
 (608) 831-2000

2011: May 30-June 4

Victoria, BC CANADA
 Chair: Ted E. Baker
 185 Furness Rd.
 Salt Spring Island, BC
 CANADA, V8K 1Z7
 (250)653-4430
 tedebaker@shaw.ca

2012: Apr 16-21

Ontario, CA
 Co-Chairs:
 Kathy Chilton

14333 S. Stagecoach Rd.
 Tucson, AZ 85736
 (520) 822-1497
 Ranchiris@aol.com

Jill Bonino
 3110 Kirkham Drive
 Glendale, CA 91206
 (818) 790-3256
 aistreas@earthlink.net

FALL BOARD MEETINGS

2008: Oct 31 – Nov 2

Las Vegas, NV
 Chair: Mary lee Fortner
 3337 Ascona Street
 Las Vegas, NV 89129
 (702) 228-0827
 mybasket@cox.net

2009: Nov 6 – 8

Tulsa, OK
 Chair: Paul W. Gossett
 129 East 33rd Place
 Tulsa, OK 74105-2542
 (918) 742-1204
 pwgossett@juno.com

2010:

Portland, OR
 Chair: Terry Aitken
 608 NW 119th Street
 Vancouver, WA 98685-3802
 (360) 573-4472
 terry@flowerfantasy.net

American Iris Society National Convention Awards 2008

President's Cup

(Best Iris from a Region 17 Hybridizer)

'Jean Queen' (Burseen 05, TB)

'Have a Goodun' (Burseen 06, TB)

'Big Bad Bob' (Burseen 05, TB)

Franklin Cook Cup

(Best Iris from a hybridizer not in Region 17)

'Gypsy Lord' (Keppel 06, TB)

'Envable' (M. D. Faith 02, LA)

'Marjorie Gayer' (Nicodemus 05, TB)

Ben R. Hager Cup

(Best Median Iris)

'Crow's Feet' (Black 06, BB)

'Niche' (Ghio 07, BB)

'Dividing Line' (Bunnell 05, MTB)

2009 AIS National Convention

3 Trails KC

By Debbie Hughes, Convention Chairman

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Greater Kansas City Iris Society and we invite you to explore our area next year the week of May 11th through 16th by attending the AIS convention in Overland Park Kansas.

In addition to the thousands of plants being grown as the main attraction, we are pleased that the Historic Iris Preservation Society has donated over 300 varieties of historic irises for us to enjoy and to serve as a visual history lesson in the evolution of the iris. We are thrilled that many of these plants will become part of permanent educational displays.

This link with our iris history inspired us to commemorate the area's pioneering legacy with the theme; 3 Trails KC. This area was the point at which settlers heading west had a choice of three trails: the Santa Fe, California and Oregon. Today, these trails have been replaced with three major interstate highways I-29, I-35 and I-70.

The convention committee hopes to enhance the experience of the attendees with later starts, earlier returns, shorter bus rides and more time in the garden. These goals led us to sites where we could best serve the hybridizers by getting their "babies" out in the public eye.

We are fortunate to have the support of Powell Gardens, Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens and the Kansas State Research and Extension Center as sites for the major guest plantings. It is always a treat to visit the unique garden of Jim Waddick and Jim Murrain containing a variety of uncommon plants and the rural garden retreat of Scott and Debbie Hughes. We are also incorporating a little sight-seeing in the tours with a stop at the Discovery Center featuring green technologies and exhibits of Missouri's native plant species and the Kauffman Memorial Gardens.

We plan to stop for lunch at the Lanesfield Historic School Site where a bed of historic iris have been installed and is being maintained by the local DAR Chapter. Built in 1869, it is the only building that remains of the town site of Lanesfield, a mail stop on the Santa Fe Trail.

New to the convention is the "blind" seeding trial. Hybridizers were invited to submit one seedling that would be grown without public identification. These trial beds will be critiqued during Judges Training

drawing attention to the efforts of novice and experienced hybridizers. This visibility may help get more HC's awarded and is sure to prompt lively discussions.

We are planning two optional tours as well. One will be a museum tour to the Liberty Memorial and National World War I museum, and the unique Steamboat Arabia museum. The second is a tour of the gardens of several members of the Pony Express Iris Society in the St Joseph MO area including Jim and Lamoyne Hedgecock's Comanche Acres Iris Gardens.

In 2007, Overland Park was named one of the "50 Best Places to Live + Play" by *National Geographic Adventure*. We selected the Doubletree Hotel for its comfortable woodland atmosphere, convenient highway access and location to our tour sites from our "home base". Six restaurants are within walking distance for your dining pleasure and a bowling alley is right across the street. Overland Park is home to the New Theater Restaurant recognized in the Wall Street Journal as "the best dinner theater in the country" as well as the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art and the Carlsen Center for the Performing Arts.

There are lots of things to see and do in the Kansas City area or along the way. Opportunities are as varied as the Pony Express Museum to the American Jazz Museum and the Shawnee Indian Mission. There's the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene KS and the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum in Independence MO. There's also the Dole Institute on the campus of the University of Kansas in Lawrence (home of the 2008 NCAA National Basketball Champions). The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art are conveniently located near the beautiful Country Club Plaza shopping district where you can see some of the most beloved fountains of more than 200 the city is known for. To help plan your trip and find additional information about the places you'd like to see, visit: www.opcvb.org and www.visitkc.com. We will post additional information as it becomes available on our website, www.kciris.org.

By being efficient with our travel time we hope to be able to provide our visitors a more relaxed pace. Going to Kansas City along one of today's trails, opportunities to visit interesting places abound. We hope you will support our convention by attending and promoting attendance by your club members. 🌸

Louisiana Iris Convention 2008

By Tom W. Dillard

Comfortable temperatures, radiant gardens full of bloom, and good dinning opportunities awaited the participants attending the 2008 convention of the Society for Louisiana Irises on April 10-13 in Lafayette, La. The convention included an extra tour this year—which involved taking a jaunt into rural areas and swamps seeking natural stands of Louisiana iris species.

Conventioneers were treated to Ron Betzer's garden at the peek of bloom. Situated on a ridge overlooking the historic Vermillion River in Lafayette, Betzer's garden is densely planted with a wide range of named varieties as well as a colorful seedling bed. Almost every variety was in flower, and even the coffee and pastries could not divert people away from the flowers. Ron Betzer bred 'Honey Galore,' a robust flower of deep honey coloring and graceful habit not to mention heavy substance.

SLI conventions often involve long bus trips, and so it was this year when we visited the Baton Rouge Botanical Gardens in the state capitol of Louisiana. This 55-mile trip involved traversing the languid and wild Atchafalaya swamps via an elevated expressway. Begun as a project of the late Joe Mertzweiller, the planting of Louisiana irises at the Botanical Gardens is a beautiful reminder to Louisiana residents of their native irises. Conventioneers were served a delicious lunch of Cajun food at the Botanical Gardens.

On the return to Lafayette, the tour bus left the expressway and took country roads in a search for native stands of Louisiana irises. Our extraordinary efforts were rewarded by numerous sightings of *Iris fulva*.

The SLI convention is not all touring gardens, and this years attendees were treated to a "symposium" on the Iris Friendship Garden at Rochester, New York. Leading the discussion was Dr. Edna Claunch of Rochester who was the motivating force behind the garden. She conceived the idea of limiting the garden to Louisiana irises—an iris native to the United States. Members of the Society donated the thousands of rhizomes needed to plant such a large garden.

One of the most anticipated parts of the annual convention is the flower show. With perfect weather conditions and flowers at peak,

exhibitioners were able to put on a large and beautiful show. Best specimen, as selected by members of the Society, was 'Delta Star.' A large display of seedlings promised more amazing cultivars for the future.

Harry Wolford of Palm Bay, Florida was elected president of the Society at its business meeting. He succeeded the hard working Paul Gossett of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Attending the convention this year were Jim and Jean Morris of Missouri. Jim was introduced at the SLI business meeting, and he extended best wishes to the Society from the American Iris Society—of which he is Section Liaison.

The 2009 SLI convention will be April 23-26, at the Holiday Inn in Shreveport, La. Information will be posted later at www.louisianas.org. 

AIS Insurance

By Michelle Snyder, Insurance Chair

Below are instructions for obtaining Certificates of Insurance when required by the venue where an event is being held. Please be aware I DO NOT obtain the certificates of insurance for the local clubs, etc. It is the responsibility of the club, etc. hosting the event to obtain the necessary Certificate of Insurance.

To obtain Certificates of Insurance go to www.irises.org. Click on the Member Services link and then click on AIS Insurance and you will be taken to the page that has the instructions for obtaining the necessary Certificate. Download the form, complete it as necessary and fax it to the number shown.

There is a statement that says "Is Certificate Holder requested to be named as an additional insured?" If you only need to show proof of insurance, circle No. If the venue needs to be named as an additional insured, circle Yes.

As always, if there are any problems associated with obtaining the needed Certificate, or if you have any questions in general regarding insurance, please contact me at either 818/352-7018, or my email address of sammygiz@aol.com. 

'A Convention to Remember'

Society for Japanese Iris, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 2008

By Terry Aitken, Washington

Award for Best Seedling

- #1 Dennis Hager #04-06-04
- #2 Lee Walker #T-98-86-6
- #3 Bauer/Coble #J02D2
- #4 Bauer Coble #J02H6

Award for Best Named Variety

- #1 'Kool Crayola Ice' (Lee Walker '06)
- #2 'Evelyn White' (John White '08)
- #2 'Sue Jo' (Don Delmez '04)
- #3 'Kimono Silk' (Bauer/Coble '08)
- #4 'Shiryoku' (Hiroshi Shimizu '08)
- #5 'John's Fancy' (Jill Copeland '08)
- #5 'Second Wave' (Aitken '05)

Convention jitters go with every convention. With this one, "Lady Luck" was with us and everything went like clockwork. High winds and torrential rains, up to 5", flooded the fields two days before the convention. However, by the time tour time rolled around, the sandy soils of Kalamazoo had soaked up the surplus moisture, the plants had sloughed off the shredded flowers, and approximately 120 happy conventioners were treated to nearly idyllic conditions of mild sunshine and refreshed flowers at peak bloom.

The first garden we visited was that of Jill Copeland, who is well known for both her breeding for new and better Japanese irises, in addition to her work with Species-X hybrids (*I. pseudacorus* x *I. ensata*), known as pseudatas. She is ably assisted by her husband Jim, who in addition to his other talents is a fisherman of some note, and the master chef of "Jim Copeland's famous fish fries". We were treated to one of these for lunch in their garden, and it was outstanding.

The Dick and Eileen O'Melay garden was an inspiration in presentation with features such as a koi pond with waterfalls, rocky hillsides with companion plantings and deep shade for hostas.

The tour also included the deep shade garden of Jim and Bev

Munson with a very extensive collection of hostas growing under ideal conditions of filtered light from deciduous trees. (Iris growers don't grow just irises!) Lake front property allows for plantings of Louisiana irises at water's edge.

The grand finale was the visit to the extensive commercial gardens of Ensata Gardens run by Bob Bauer and John Coble. Here we saw the latest hybridizing efforts of these veteran hybridizers and Japanese iris specialists. Cutting edge plants presented themselves at every garden. This was, indeed, 'A convention to Remember'!

In garden judges' training was offered at the Copeland garden, where we had a wonderful opportunity to both view an extensive collection of pseudatas, both named and seedlings, and to learn more about these amazing hybrid crosses. We were also treated to another judges' training session by John Coble, in the fields of Japanese irises at Ensata Gardens.

It was a great week-end for viewing Japanese irises, as well as Pseudatas, learning more about them, and enjoying the hospitality of the host group, The Southwestern Michigan Iris Society. ♪

Photo: Aitken



Viewing Seedlings at the Copeland Garden

Thanks To the Geeks Among Us!!!

By Rita Gormley, Iowa

Whatever would AIS and all of its associated groups do without the “Geek Volunteers”??

These dedicated people work in the technology trenches for AIS, Sections and Affiliates doing membership mailings, database/spreadsheet monitoring and updating, publications large and small, websites, financial monitoring as Treasurers, auctions/sales and a myriad of other chores made so much easier with the current technology!

How did all the Editors of yore manage with mimeograph machines, no mailing labels, balancing checkbooks with a pencil and NO e-mail? I shudder to think of the amount of time and effort it took to produce the earliest Section newsletters to say nothing of the AIS *Bulletin*. Today's publications are slick, some in color with a much more accurate distribution system thanks to databases and mail-merge mailing label programs.

The American Iris Society and all its related groups are thankful to their “Geek Volunteers” for many reasons but especially since they have always brought their own software with them to accomplish these jobs!! No outlay of fees to purchase programs to run with the great ideas to make life easier for all involved.

HOWEVER, time and technology march on and many Geeks and wannabees have found bigger, better and more expensive ways to handle the computer chores. Reminds us of Hamlet “...perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub!” Now the Geek dreams overshadow their own software so where do they go from there? Volunteering and donating lots of time is one thing but purchasing expensive new programs (\$200 to \$1000) is quite another. They MUST go back to their organizations and negotiate.

Here are some recommendations of what AIS non-profit certified, IRS 501 (c) (3) organizations should do when faced with the “new software cost dilemma”:

Check websites that specialize in providing donated software from major software companies like Adobe, Microsoft, Quickbooks (Intuit) and Wickispaces and a whole list of others. The best known of these is TechSoup - <http://www.techsoup.org/>

Check other software company websites for special deals available to non-profits such as Filemaker <http://www.filemaker.com/purchase/store/licensing.html>

Keep in mind that any of these special programs have strict requirements relating to verification of eligibility, how often and by whom orders can be requested but the good news is the "donation processing entity" charges only a small fee for the work and the software is basically free.

All of these can keep the software acquisition costs at a minimum while adding immensely to the store of tools available to our favorite Geeks for important iris -related jobs! 

AIS Library

Are you cleaning out your attic or back room? Do you have an excess or unwanted iris magazines, or artifacts that you would like to get rid of? Please keep our AIS Library in mind. We collect gardening catalogs, magazines, books, breeding records, trophies and/or medals, and most anything iris related. It doesn't matter if the library already has duplicates of what you donate. Excess materials are sent each year to the AIS national convention for the Silent Auction. The limited funds from the sale of these items and copying costs provide the library with paper, ink, postage, and any other supplies needed for operation.

Contact Tracy Plotner (503) 829-3102 or countri@molalla.net

Thank you in advance for your support.

NOTICE: There has been a change to 2009 AIS Symposium voting. Please read the Editor's Message and see ballot (starting on page 100 of the *Bulletin*)

PRESENTING FOR 2008



ZIN CITY (Feuerstein)

This heavily ruffled wine-colored variety is a garden standout, with tangerine beards and a blue blaze in the center of the falls. Zin City stands about 34-36 inches tall, and blooms in the early to middle part of the Spring Parade. (Textronics x Starfleet). **\$15.00**, including postage. No catalog available; order directly from this advertisement

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2008 AIS Convention Gardens Austin Texas

35

Photo: Aitken



A fountain at Abel Garden with unknown iris.

Abel Garden

Photo: K. Norris



This Page:

Above: 'Florentine Silk' (K. Keppel '05, TB)

Below: 'Mango Passion' (L. Lauer '05, TB),

'Ostentatious' (J. Ghio '98, TB)

Right Page:

Above: 'Dusky He-Man' (J. Richardson '05, TB)

Below: 'Dale Yost' (H. Nichols '07, TB)



Photo: Aitken



Photo: Aitken



Photo: K. Norris





Bannockburn Garden



Left Page (from top to bottom):

'Comet Connie' (Tom Burseen '02, TB)

Bannockburn Garden shot

This Page (from top to bottom):

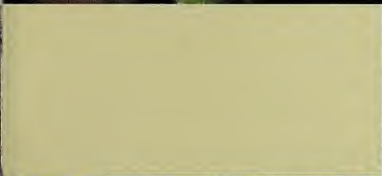
'Pure Innocence' (M. Sutton '06, TB)

Annand #90-8B

'Serious Sighs' (T. Burseen '07, TB)

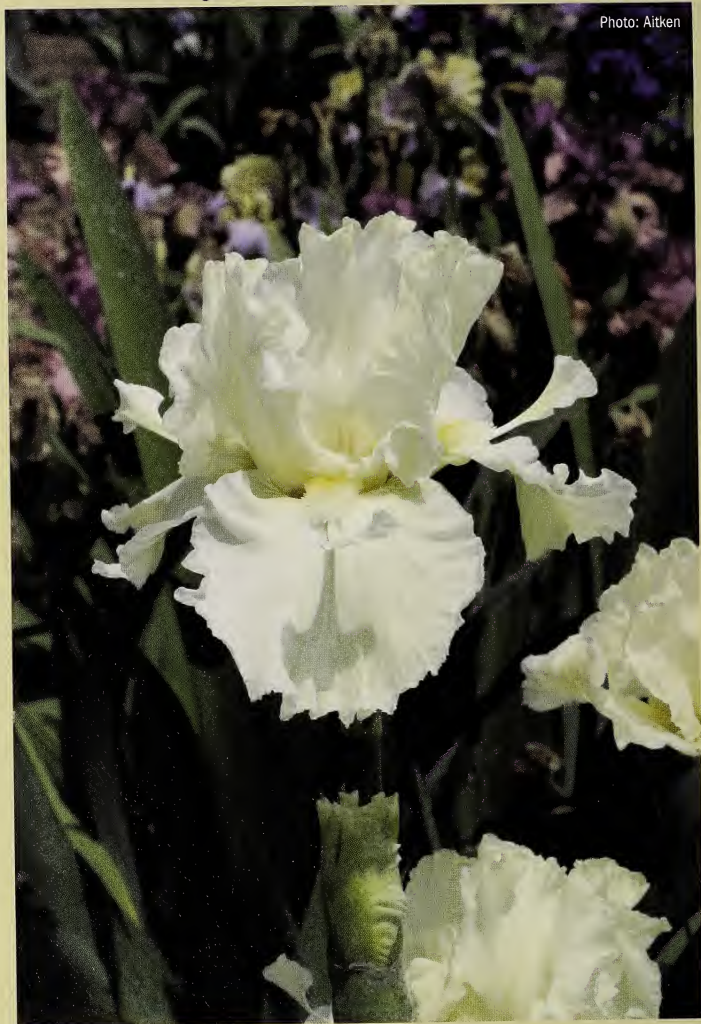
'Morning Revielle' (L. Meininger '04, TB)

all photos Aitken



Brushy Creek Garden

Photo: Aitken



This Page: 'California Dreaming' (G. Sutton '04, TB)

Next Page: 'Chief John Jolly' (T. Parkhill '03, TB)

'Jack's Pick' (C. Bunnell '06, MTB)

Photo: K. Norris



Photo: K. Norris





Murphy Garden



Left Page: Murphy garden overview with Louisiana irises

This Page: 'Other Voices' (L. Markham '05, TB),
'Dusky He-Man' (G. Richardson '05, TB),
'Red Skies' (J. Ghio '07, TB)

All photos Aitken



Above:
Murphy Garden pergola

Right: 'Teapot Tempest'
(L. Markham '99, BB)

Photo: K. Norris





The Natural Gardener



Photos top to bottom:

'Clothed in Glory' (F. Kerr '05, TB)

'Sierra Downtown' (Scott '02, TB)

Mego seedling # 00/0547-3

all photos both pages Aitken





Photos top to bottom:

'Spirits Rising' (L. Miller '06, TB)

'Kathy Chilton' (F. Kerr '06, TB)

'Psychic Reader' (J. Ghio '07, TB)



San Marcos Garden





Left Page Top to Bottom:

'Power Point' (T. Johnson '05, TB)

'Tankini' (D. Spoon '05, TB)

This Page Top to Bottom:

'California Fiesta' (J. Ragle '08, TB)

'Victorian Lady' (M. Grumbine '04, TB)

All photos both pages Aitken





Schroeder's Farm

This Page: The Hut at Schroeder's Farm

Next Page Top to Bottom: 'Crimson Lights' (B. Nicodemus '04, TB)

Ghio seedling # 02-290S

all photos Aitken





*And The
Winners
Are... ???*

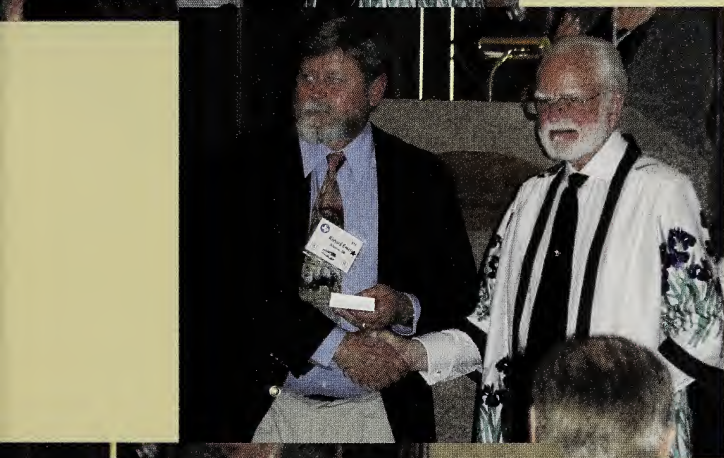
This Page Top to Bottom:
Fred Kerr presented with the Dykes Medal for 'Queen's Circle' (Kerr '00) presented by AIS President Dr. Roy Epperson.

Next Page Top to Bottom:
Paul Black Awarded the Ben R. Hager Cup for best Median iris, 'Crow's Feet' (Black '06) at the national convention.

Rick Ernst presented with the Wister Medal for his introduction, 'Ring Around Rosie' (Ernst '00).

Keith Keppel presented with Franklin Cook Cup for 'Gypsy Lord' for best iris from outside of region 17.

All photos by Kelly Norris



Growing Louisianas in the Northwest

Terry Aitken, Region 13, zone 8

We have grown Louisianas for approximately twenty years. With the passing of Lynn Finkel a few years back, our amalgamated collection grew to the formidable size of some 250 varieties. As our hybridizing interest diversifies, our newest Louisiana seedlings include thoughts of reblooming LA's.

In the Northwest, Louisiana irises are a long way from their native semi tropical environment. They like to remain evergreen all winter. That is fine until our night temperatures drop into the 15 degree Fahrenheit (-10 degrees Celsius) range. Fractured tissue results and some rot will occur. The plants seem to be able to outgrow this condition once temperatures begin to rise. Louisianas dearly love heat, a rare commodity in northwest winters. Our moist, cool spring weather also encourages leaf spot or rust. Again, as the weather warms at about bloom time in June, the plants begin to outgrow the spotting the same way as our bearded iris. (We will be doing some culling of varieties that are particularly vulnerable to the leaf spot problem.) Providing moisture in the northwest is not a problem until after bloom time. After that, supplemental irrigation and heavy mulch is very beneficial. Compared to Texas where I see LA's at shoulder height, our Louisianas are short, more like waist height. I suspect that this is caused more from a lack of heat than lack of moisture. Our soils are acid ranging from pH 5.5 to pH 6.0

Louisianas have been popular in the northwest as pond plants, even the little species 'Red Echo' (Rowland '84) or the larger and flashier 'Red Dazzler' (P. Hale '69). Reds seem to be particularly popular. The best growers with more disease resistance, as a group, seem to be the bigger blues. There are always exceptions. Louisiana colors seem to be particularly intense. They seem to come in either solid colors or vein patterns that extend to the edges of the petals. Some examples of veins are 'Wow Factor' (H. Prior '02), 'Switched On' (Taylor '99), 'Romantic Glow' (Dunn '98), and 'Princess Leia' (H. Prior '98). Amongst the solid colors are 'Beale Street' (Vaughn '97), 'Simply Irresistible' (H. Prior '99), 'Postmaster' (Taylor '99) and 'Ginger Fudge' (H. Prior '98) See accompanying pictures.





Previous Page: Louisianas in bloom at Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden

This Page Top to Bottom: 'Romantic Glow', 'Wow Factor'

Right Page Top to Bottom: 'Ginger Fudge', 'Princess Leia'





Louisiana Irises





Top: 'Postmaster'

Bottom: 'Beale Street'





Top: 'Switched On'
Bottom: 'Ann's Child'





Top: 'Gunner' (Taylor '02)

At 2008 Louisiana convention, Jim Leonard garden, Lafayette, LA

Bottom: 'Red Echo' (Rowland '84), and *I. fulva* hybrid



Photo: Timothy Nutt



Photo: Jim Morris

*Ron Betzer
Garden
Louisiana
Convention,
2008*

'Splitter Splatter' (Grieves '06, LA)



Photo: Jim Morris



Photo: Jim Morris

Above: 'Rivers of Babylon'
(Baumunk '04) AB-OGB
Left: 'Holey Moley Plum'
(Chacon '07) AB-OGB
Below: 'Refiner's Fire'
(P. McGrath '07)

Photo: Aitken



Aril and Median Trek

(see summary, page 15)

Society for Japanese Iris Convention



Left: Lee Walker (right), John Coble (left)

Below: 'Kool Crayola Ice'
(Lee Walker 2006, JI)

photos: Aitken





Above: Japanese Iris 'Sue Jo' (Delmez '04)

Below Left: Japanese iris 'Evelyn White' (John White 2008)

Below Right: New pseudata by Jill Copeland #S-10

Photos: Aitken



Top Fifteen Favorite Guest Irises (2008)

	Votes
'Gypsy Lord' (Keppel '06, TB)	69
'Niche' (Ghio '07, BB)	58
'First Wave' (Tasco '03, TB)	52
'Crow's Feet' (Black '06, BB)	51
'American Master' (Kerr '06, TB)	46
'My Friend Dick' (Faith '02, LA)	45
'Henry Rowlan' (Faith '02, LA)	44
'Fire and Brimstone' (Sorensen '02, TB)	41
'Christmas Present' (Ghio '07, TB)	38
'Jean Queen' (Burseen '05, TB)	34
'Florentine Silk' (Keppel '05, TB)	32
'Marjorie Gayer' (Nicodemus, B, TB)	31
'California Dreaming' (Sutton, G '04, TB)	31
'Rae Rae' (Faith '04, LA)	30
'Envable' (Faith '02, LA)	30

International Iris Competition Winners Florence 2008

Tall Bearded

- 1st – Premio Firenze (Gold Florin) of the Tourist Organisation:
‘Morning Sunrise’ (T. Johnson – U.S.A.)
- 2nd – Tuscany Region Prize:
‘Power Point’ (T. Johnson – U.S.A.)
- 3rd – Silver Plate of the Industrial Organisation:
‘Designer’s Art’ (F. Kerr – U.S.A.)
- 4th – Italian Iris Society Silver Medal ‘Piero Bargellini’:
‘Corona Star’ (G. Grosvenor – Australia)
- 5th – Honourable Mention:
‘City Of Gold’ (P. Black – U.S.A.)
- 6th – Honourable Mention:
‘Celtic Glory’ (H. L. Stahly – U.S.A.)
- 7th – Honourable Mention:
‘Florentine Silk’ (K. Keppel – U.S.A.)
- 8th – Honourable Mention:
‘Must Unite’ (G. Grosvenor – Australia)
- 9th – Honourable Mention:
‘Lord Of The Night’ (G. Sutton – U.S.A.)
- 10th – Honourable Mention:
‘Jealous Halo’ (J. Painter – U.S.A.)

Special Prizes

Comune di Firenze Silver Plate for the Best Red Variety:
‘County Town Red’ (O. Wells – Great Britain)

Chamber of Commerce Prize for the Best Commercial Variety:
‘Power Point’ (T. Johnson – U.S.A.)

Amici dei Fiori Cup for the Best Italian Variety:
 'Selene Moon' (A. Bianco – Italy)

Louise Branch Prize for the Best Branched Variety:
 seedling 539 (V. Adolphovich Volphovich-Moler – Uzbekistan)

Florence Garden Club Cup for the Most Original Colour:
 'Morning Sunrise' (T. Johnson – U.S.A.)

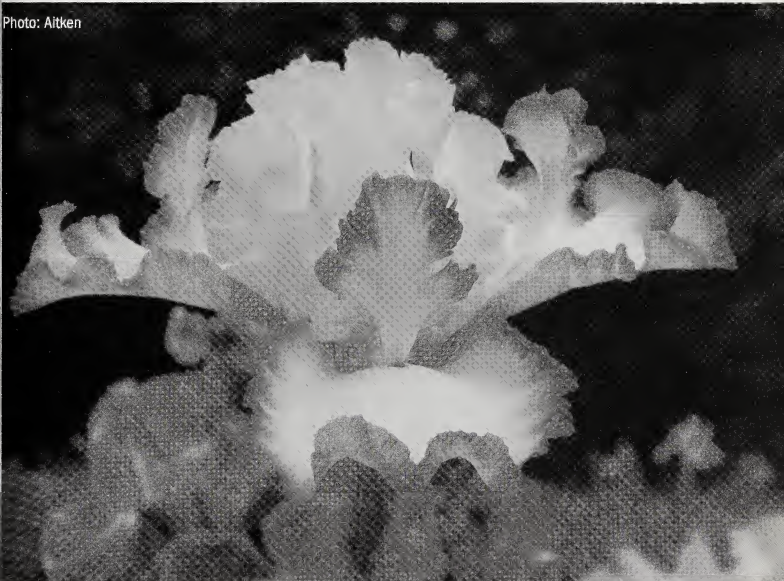
Perugia Garden Club Cup for the Best Scented Variety:
 'Peace Prayer' (T. Johnson – U.S.A.)

Rora and Luciano Bausi Prize for the Best Blue Variety:
 'Joyful Skies' (Schreiner's Garden – U.S.A.)

Leila and Paolo Tarini Prize for the Best Violet Variety:
 'Fay's Oscar' (A.&D. Cadd – U.S.A.)

Giorgio Saviane Prize for the Best Early Variety:
 seedling nr. L-124-B (J. Hedgecock – U.S.A.)

Photo: Aitken



'Hands Up!' (Aitken # 05T10) Humor happens in the seedling patch. This cross of (Conjunction x Detroit City) produces some really interesting flowers with incredibly weak stems. When last seen, this flower was lying flat on the ground

2008 AIS National Convention Garden Reports

Roger and Marney Abel Garden

By Robin Shadlow

Now just for fun, try to imagine what you would do if you had a great piece of land in the rolling hills of Austin. You can build ANYTHING wonderful that you can dream up. What you are envisioning about now probably falls a good bit short of what Roger and Marney Abel have created. Assisted by their son, they have turned their estate into a warm and inviting garden. The entire property is carefully laid out to properly accent the surrounding views. You are greeted with plantings of palms along the front entrance. Gazebos and fountains provide interest as you work your way to the back. Everywhere you look; there is something to catch your eye.

The irises were putting on a lovely show for us. One iris grabbed me from across the yard; I had to rush over to see. A luminata which I knew instantly could only be 'Pep Rally' (Ghio '08, TB) it's ruffles and wide form merit attention in any case, but this luminata is a noticeable approach to red, the first to be seen outside of the seedling beds.

One of the best performers in the garden, was 'At First Blush' (F. Kerr '06, TB) Sure to linger after that first impression, this iris is a soft white with just a blush of pink at the hafts and into the standards. Wide ruffled falls add to the flowers' lovely form.

One of the best clumps at the convention was found here. 'Jean Queen' (Tom Burseen '05, TB) was extremely floriferous. This flounced space ager caught enough people's attention in this garden and others that it was voted the President's Cup for best iris from a hybridizer in the host Region.

'Mango Passion' (Larry Lauer '05, TB) made a vivid clump in ruffles and orange. It is nice to see a vigorous orange that was able to perform well in the challenging conditions that Austin has experienced over the last few years. 'Florentine Silk' (Keppel '05, TB) was in good form, proving itself to be a strong performer in varied climates. 'Taste the

Magic' (Barry Blyth '06, TB) was also very eye-catching as an approach to a red amoena.

This was my first chance to see one of the latest in the series of Cayeux hybrids in higher dosage dominant blue amoenas. 'Reussite' (Cayeux '06, TB) sports bright orange-red beards. Couldn't help but be curious, reussite translates as an accomplishment or success.

I was especially pleased to get to see Jim Ennenga's reblooming seedling E-00-19-1 from ('Yaquina Blue' x 'Oxmoor Hills'). One of the more ruffled and wider formed rebloomers outside of the temperate zones, hopefully we will see it introduced in the near future.

The beardless irises were in great form in this garden. The Abels had a lovely display of potted Louisiana irises lining a patio. In particular, 'Jeri' (Bertinot '85, LA) stood out for me. Small wonder that this deserving Louisiana was awarded the Debaillon Medal in 1994. There were also many *I. spuria* in bloom interspersed throughout the garden. It was nice to see such variety in a convention garden.

After seeing the iris, one could not help but wander about to see all of the wonderful things this garden had to offer. In one area, there was an interesting garden seat- a reclining wolf. Around the corner, the dolphins danced in a spectacular fountain. While seeking out the refreshments, you couldn't help but notice the amazing barbeque set up. Many a wonderful garden party has been staged here, you can well imagine.

The Abels were wonderful hosts. They held the area's deer at bay so that none of the convention guests were damaged. The deer are enough problem there that they needed to protect the beds on the front lawn with a permanent netting. They also provided convention goers with a special gift - the Abels designed and printed the iris mailing labels which were included in the welcome packets. We thank the Abels for opening their wonderful garden to us, creating a special sort of magic for us to remember for years to come.

Bannockburn Garden

By Hugh Stout Jr.

Our visit to the Church Garden at Bannockburn Baptist Church came on a brisk, beautiful Friday morning in Austin, after a brief overnight storm. The sun arrived right on time to shed light on what Jack Campbell and his crew of volunteers had labored long and hard to create. It was not just an iris garden, which I fear are all many of our members saw. It was an oasis of many gardens filled with an incredible

palette of plants and color spread over the nine acres around the church. In a climate where harsh growing conditions are the norm, Jack Campbell put his 50 plus years of gardening and farming experience to work by researching growing conditions in Austin. His knowledge of soil preparation for the iris, such as using one-third compost in the mix, produced some of the best-grown bearded iris we saw there. At age 75, Jack says a project of this magnitude couldn't have been accomplished without a great deal of knowledge and the Lord's blessing and direction.

Tom Burseen had several tall bearded iris enjoying the growing conditions here and holding up well after the showers. 'Indy Edith' (Burseen '05, TB), a burnt orange space ager with bushy orange horns was looking good. 'Have A Goodun', (Burseen '06, TB) (whose description I leave to the photo!) showed why it almost won the Presidents Cup, coming in second to another of Tom's creations, 'Jean Queen' (Burseen '05, TB). 'Classy Claire' (Burseen '04, TB) with light peach standards, creamy falls with a lavender overtone and a dark yellow rim and orange white beards showed why it earned the name "Classy".

'Sisters of Loretto' (Van Liere '06, TB), with its rosy red-pink over light yellow and orange yellow beards, looked ready for the show bench. 'Baja Blue' (Schreiner's '07) and 'Passion and Purity' (Schreiner's '06, TB) were performing well as was 'My Oh My' (Schreiner's '07, TB) that lit up the cloudy day with peach colored standards; white falls, with a rim to match the standards, and topped off with a bright red beard.

'Pure Innocence' (M. Sutton '06, TB) a fine looking space ager, was looking sharp. It's a white self with very slight lavender at its base, white flounces and ruffling that doesn't quit. 'Shore Patrol' (W. Moores '02, TB) was another showy iris being a marine blue self with its beards white, turning to yellow in the throat.

'Altered Images' (H. Nichols '01, TB) was eye-catching here with ivory standards and falls that are white ground with a purple and cinnamon plicata band.

Thanks to Jack and his men's senior bible class, some of whom are in their 80's, for sharing this wonderful garden with us. I understand their work here inspired younger volunteers to join in, creating a huge learning experience beyond the congregation to Master Gardeners & Naturalists, Boy Scouts and other youth groups. There is much there for others to learn from. Thanks also to the Iris Society of Austin for providing us with some great memories.

Brushy Creek Community Center (M.U.D.) Garden

By Jody Nolin

When I first got the assignment, I thought, 'Oh, good, I can do this. I may not know a lot about iris, but I sure know mud.' Well, surprise, surprise, no mud, but plenty of garden.

The Brushy Creek Municipal Utility District maintains the garden in Round Rock, the 'Daffodil Capital of Texas.' Located at the community center, it's a fine example of what can be done with xeriscaping and creativity. Although this garden is only 4 ½ years old, color abounds. Sweeping drifts of larkspur punctuated by exclamations of poppies give way to stands of lavender and amaryllis. Light shade is provided by small trees, including the 'Bunny Rabbit Flower' (*Bauhinia Congesta*, the Anacacho Orchid Tree). The entire garden is protected by deer fencing. They are seen bedding down by the fence at night.

A well-grown stand of M. D. Faith's Louisianas put on a colorful show. Rachel Hagan, Horticulturalist for the garden, says they receive no special irrigation. They are planted where the runoff from the roof flows. Clever, no? Of the LAs, 'Ann's Legacy' (Faith '04, LA) was loaded with blue-violet blooms. There was also 'Yvana' (Faith '04, LA), a white with a gold signal; 'Rae Rae' (Faith '04, LA), a ruffled two tone blue with gold styles arms and signal. M. D. Faith himself was checking the bee pods on 'Lulu E' (Faith '05, LA), a ruffled white, round form with pale yellow signal.

Of the TB's iris, the group that did best were planted where they got afternoon shade. One stand-out was 'Gypsy Lord' (Keppel '06, TB), which won the Cook Cup. This 10-bud beauty has white standards, violet plicata on white falls with a white rim and orange beard.

Tom Burseen's iris were right at home in their home state. Blooming were 'Jean Queen' (Burseen '05, TB) which won the President's Cup; 'Grandma's Smile' (Burseen '06, TB), 'Abbey and Me (Burseen '04, TB), yellow standards with white falls rimmed yellow and huge flounces.

Another Texan, 'Make A Wish' (Christopherson '05, TB) showed off yellow blooms with a red brown wash on the falls and fuzzy horns.

Also of note was 'Chief John Jolly' (Parkhill '03, TB), which had 12 stalks. It has yellow standards, white falls with lavender veins and rims.

G. Sutton's 'California Dreamin' (G. Sutton '04, TB), was a big clump with big stalks and big flounces on pale yellow blooms.

Other iris to watch for were Skyland Ranch', (Richardson '06, TB), pale blue standards over blue falls; 'Epiphany' (Hedgecock '06, TB), a pink apricot blend; 'Dat's Da One', (Hedgecock '06, TB), a white and light blue broken color; 'Cliff Sharp' (Grumbine '03, TB), maroon

standards over red violet falls with white shoulders veined maroon and maroon edging; 'Sunny Lynn' (Worel '07, TB), a pale yellow with lilac beard and zone.

Luckily, this garden had shady benches, just perfect for writing up my notes. I liked the benches so much that I brought pictures home for my husband to build. That will probably happen around the same time my gardens are weed-free: never.

San Marcos Tourist Information Center Garden

By Jim and Jill Copeland

The San Marcos area is one of the oldest settled areas in the country and has many historic places to visit. This area was first owned by Spain, then France, then Mexico, and finally the United States.

Lee and Sandy Schroeder brought the San Marcos Tourist Information Center Garden to reality and what a good idea for exposing the public to irises it is! The garden is located on IH-35 between the Tourist Center and the spring fed San Marcos River.

Lee developed the design, which allows people to observe irises in a relaxed manner. He solicited donations from area businesses and received enough cement retainer blocks to form the curved raised iris beds that formed the circular garden. He also received 70 cubic yards of soil to fill the iris beds. Plants had very nice spacing so that individual clumps could be easily observed. The foliage on the irises in this garden was clean and beautiful.

'Sharper Image' (Paul Black '05, TB) is very light blue with wide orange beards and lavender horns. Here on a 2-year clump, it had 4 stalks, each with 4 branches and a spur giving 10 buds, 'Sharper Image' makes a spectacular clump.

'Beyond the Blue' (Vincent Christopherson '01, TB) is violet, lighter at the edge and nicely ruffled. It had 4 stalks with 4 branches and a spur giving 12 buds. This makes a very impressive clump.

'Big Bad Bob' (Tom Burseen '05, TB), a light yellow with darker edges with self-large flounces and orange beards, also had 4 stalks. Each stalk had 4 branches, a spur and 9 buds. We liked this flower.

'Broken Link' (Margaret Sutton '06, BB) is a nice yellow ground red-violet plicata. It had 3 stalks with 3 branches & a spur and 8 buds. This BB makes a good clump for the front of the border.

'Power Point' (Tom Johnson '05, TB) has standards of pale pink with a violet influence. The falls are pink with lighter centers and a lavender influence with orange beards and violet horns. The flowers are

lacy. Here the clump had 2 stalks with 2 branches and a spur resulting in 7 buds.

'Yosemite Nights', (George Sutton '04, TB) is a deep velvety purple-black self. Each stalk had 3 branches, a spur and 10 buds. This is a good addition to the black class.

Oscar Schick's seedling '99-45 H03' is a ruffled white ground red-violet plicata with harmonious orange beards. The stalk had 2 branches and 2 spurs for 8 buds.

'Clown Around', (V. Christopherson '03, TB) is a yellow ground red-violet plicata with plicata flounces. Even though each stalk only had 2 branches and a spur supporting 6 buds, it didn't lack for flowers. This 2-year clump had 11 stalks!

Irises began blooming in this garden in February, two months prior to the convention and bloom was quite good. It was easy to observe bloom stalks that had completed blooming and new stalks that were in stages between tight bud and bloom in the same clump. Lee relates this to the local environment created by the San Marcos River and only 2 frosts during the winter. Some examples of this are:

'Guinevere's Kiss', (Don Spoon '04, TB) is a sparkly red-violet self. It had 9 stalks, 3 branches, a spur, and 7 buds.

'Royal Storm' (Rick Tasco '01, TB) has light blue standards and velvety purple falls. Here, it had 8 stalks with 2 branches, a spur, and 7 buds.

'Victorian Lady' (Mark Grumbine '04, TB) is white with blue-violet edges. This clump had 8 stalks with 2 branches, a spur, and 7 buds.

'Stronghold' (V. Christopherson '06, TB) is a nice purple had 3 stalks with 2 branches, a spur, and 8 buds.

'Designer's Art' (Fred Kerr '05, TB) has yellow standards and cream falls edged violet. It had 3 stalks with 2 branches, a spur, and 6 buds.

Information Center employees said there was a lot of interest in the iris garden. They related that cars would pass on the highway, stop, back up, and go visit the iris garden. Having a vehicle at the convention, we were able to make 2 additional visits to the garden. During one of our visits, eleven visitors toured the garden while we were there. Future plans for the garden include a fountain and statue in the center of the garden with plantings of Louisiana Irises and a wrought iron fence along the front by the road. Lee is a master at soliciting assistance in maintaining the garden. The San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department, Hays County Master Gardeners, and Springlake Garden Club members will all help to maintain and update this beautiful garden. This garden will continue to introduce a lot of new people to the wonderful world of irises!

The Schroeders Farm

By Scarlett Ayres

The Sandy and Lee Schroeders Farm is a 150 year old farm on 100 acres southeast of Austin. The Schroeders found that the soil was played out when they first purchased the farm so they have gradually been improving the soil with horse manure. Lee Schroeder related a story of when they first moved onto the property they worked in horse manure and it sickened the irises. He found out that the fields growing the horses feed were sprayed a persistent broadleaf herbicide called Grazon. The horses eat the feed and concentrate the herbicide in their manure. I was very interested in this story, because this year I am working in horse manure into my gardens. How can I make sure it doesn't contain Grazon. Lee raises his own horses as well as his own feed and has a 10' by 20' pile of horse manure that he lets sit for two years before he uses it on his garden. Now he makes sure that the feed and the resultant manure for the irises are Grazon free.

Gusty winds, beautiful horses and about 500 guest irises planted in long rows greeted us at the. I was shocked to learn that this area had only one light freeze this year. I always thought irises needed 6-weeks of freezing weather. This type of year round growing weather makes for reblooming irises on the Christmas table. It also spreads out the growing season with some irises nearly finished blooming and others have yet to bloom. Sandy, an avid herbilogist, mentioned that in the previous two years, they had a great deal of rain and suffered from soft rot and leaf spot. It was expected that 60 % of the irises would have been lost except for the organic cocktail she mixed up. She must know what she is doing since none of the irises had leaf spot and there were only a few empty sections.

In the middle of the iris bed is an eight-foot tall structure that looked like the Keebler house where they manufacture chocolate chip cookies and sure enough chocolate chip cookies were served to sweet-tooth inclined conference growers. Two-foot tall giant mushrooms stood nearby. Sandy said that she calls it the Folly house and plans to name her future iris business Folly nurseries.

One of the loveliest medians on the tour was Crow's Feet, a BB by Paul Black, 2006. I am not quite sure why this lovely flower is named incongruously Crow's Feet. That is a question someone needs to pose to the hybridizer. Seven stalks were counted with four buds on each stalk. Five flowers were fully opened and displayed clean white standards over striped falls highlighted by orange beards. Enchanted visitors departing the bus walked right past the Keebler elf with the chocolate chip cookies to gather

closer gazes of this purple and white amoena luminata. It performed well elsewhere on this tour but it was probably due to this clump in this garden, the reason it won the Hagar's cup this year. Maybe the giant mushrooms growing nearby added something magical to the soil.

'Voltaire's Cloak' (Nicodemus '05, TB) has 5 stalks in the clump and 5 fully open buds were present. The reddish grape color with white spray and orange beards made a commanding statement in the garden and was visible for large distances. I spotted this flower on the far side of the garden as I exited the bus and immediately headed towards it.

Crimson Lights (Nicodemus '04, TB) had 3 stalks and many opened flowers. The dark wine flower has a white spray with a hint of gold on the sides and reddish gold beards. The standards have nice big ruffles and were slightly lighter than the dark falls. This was a favorite of many photographers who found it magically delicious.

'Pucker Power' (Burseen '05, TB) is a tall bearded iris that must have been made by elves even though the sign said that it was made by Burseen. It attracted the most persistent photographers who would wait patiently for 10 minutes or longer for a break in the wind to take a picture of this large flounced flower. Can a true double flower be far behind? Multiple stalks were present. I found it interesting that the white spray covering the hafts of this flower also covered the beginning of the flounce.

Burseen proved to be a master elf of space agers in this garden. 'Christine Suchy' (Burseen '06, TB), another space ager, entranced visitors with its large pointed beards that varied from orange to white to lavender. The flower is a very pale lilac. Most beards accentuate the flower. In 'Christine Suchy', the beard is the main show. It was uncommonly made and uncommonly good.

Ghio was well represented by a lovely seedling 02-209S. This luminata was reddish-grape with a white ground with a dark midrib. The falls were lightly rimmed in white. Three flowers were opened on 2 stalks.

'Altered Images' (H. Nichols '01, TB), another Texan, had four flowers opened with several more about to open. I had to look this color up on the AIS Iris Database. It wasn't exactly purple nor was it pink. The Database described it as cinnamon. This cinnamon and white plicata had gilt edges on ivory standards. The hafts were more of a violet color.

It was interesting to see how irises grew in another southern climate. I am also from a southern climate (but considerably drier). I wish the best to the Schroeders in their development of Folly Nurseries.

The Murphy Garden

By Nyla Hughes

A wealth of waving wildflowers welcomed us into the drive to the garden of Ed and Janet Murphy—Indian paintbrush, red flax, pink primrose, tragopons, and bluebonnets. From the bus we could see on one side the neat stone-edged raised iris beds, and on the other purple martins being blown off-course as they tried to enter their house, an inviting refreshment porch well-furnished with goodies, and a tent packed with pecan delights for sale. (I recommend the pralines!) Sections of white picket fence planted with blooming climbing roses edged the growing area and contributed to the lovely fragrances.

First guest irises to catch the eye were the overflowing clumps of M.D. Faith's burgeoning Louisianas in their own long bed. They had obviously enjoyed the excess rain of the previous year. The Murphys reported that they had 150% plus of normal rainfall in both May and June, 2007, and 300% in July! So while all the LA guests were growing impressively, 'Envable' (M.D. Faith '02, LA) struck me as most distinctive, with ample blooms in bright yellow with eye-catching gold diffuse signals. Also notable was mauve 'Imp's Papa' (M.D. Faith '05, LA) in a smaller size designed for today's gardens, as is the charming 'Echo's Red Imp' (M.D. Faith '04, LA).

Unfortunately, the bearded irises were much less happy with the bountiful precipitation. Despite raised beds, amended soil, sloping terrain, and ample air circulation, they began to show their resentment of last year's conditions by rotting. Not all the efforts of volunteers and chemical warfare could prevent rot under circumstances where soil never dried out, and all of the 650 guest irises were affected to some extent. Replacements were planted where hybridizers could make them available, but many gaps understandably resulted in the well-built beds.

Among those beating the odds and blooming were 'Bering Lagoon' (H.Nichols '04, TB) a light lavender-white over blue-violet falls, showing two stems; 'Dusky He-Man' (Richardson '05, TB) standing tall with two large boom stalks; and 'Flying Down to Rio' (W. Moores '06, TB), silver standards over lavender falls with brown shoulders in a respectable clump.

Catching the eye with yellows were 'Huer Huero' (Scott '03, TB) flashing lemon standards over lighter falls with attractive gold beard and shoulders—one of the few with stalks of full height; light yellow 'Naughty Goddess' (Deaton '07, TB), growing well; and yellow over wine 'On the Town' (S.Markham '07, TB) blooming nicely on one stem—a TB diversion from her well known MTBs.

Looking at home in Texas were several of Tom Burseen's introductions—'Braggin Rights' (Burseen '05,TB), a white space ager with winey horns and fall edges, boasted big tall stems in contrast to less fortunate cultivars; 'Comangetit' (Burseen '07,TB) flaunted white standards over yellow falls and was looking good; with nearby 'Great Grins Gordon' (Burseen '05, TB), a flamboyantly flounced pink, also growing heartily.

Seedlings noted were a respectable clump of Crump's 01J11, a dark red with two bloom stalks and Austell's sturdy-stemmed yellow A-160, already past peak bloom as many irises were in this garden, though 'Keizer's Heritage' (Schreiner's '07, TB) was just getting ready to bloom.

There was no way to judge fairly the number of buds or type of growth that would have been typical of cultivars, given the growing conditions Mother Nature afforded. Many of the survivors were able only to provide short bloom stalks and stunted growth. Lovely individual blooms on such plants as 'Sharper Image' (Black '05, TB) and 'Foggy Bottom' (Spoon '06,TB) could only indicate what might have been in a kinder climate.

However, Judges' Training held in the Murphy garden on Saturday provided enough blooming TBs for one class, and the bountiful Lousianas provided excellent examples for two classes on that category. The proceedings were enlivened by the antics of Rosie, the miniature horse, and Zeke, the pinto burro. (And another chance to sample those luscious pralines!) We thank the Murphys and their friends for their warm hospitality as well as the alluring wildflowers!

The Natural Gardener

By Kathy Chilton

The Natural Gardener is a large and well-designed commercial plant nursery. It was established by John Dromgoole, a leading Texas proponent of organic gardening. Roger Igo, Grounds Supervisor, personally oversaw the planting and care of the irises. Mr. Dromgoole is well known in Texas for his "Gardening Naturally" radio program, now in its 26th year. His Lady Bug Natural Brand organic products are used throughout the nursery gardens, including the large iris garden developed especially for the convention. The irises were planted in rows with plenty of walking paths in a sunny, open, gently sloping area of the nursery. I think this natural drainage was the key in the survival of the guest irises through the past summer, when they received three times

their normal rain in hot July, and the garden was flooded twice.

After enjoying the large well-stocked refreshment tent, we wandered down a path past an interesting rock and succulent garden, through the trees to the irises. The iris garden was bordered by trees and shrubbery, a Serenity Maze and a large Teepee used for meditation. Joe Ghio's introductions were planted in the first row next to the maze and offered wide variety. His border bearded 'Niche' (Ghio '07, BB) was showing off a nice stalk with three well-proportioned blue and white flowers. His curiously named 'Christmas Present' (Ghio '07, TB) was a frothy pale lavender confection, finished with lace and a coral beard. 'Red Handed' (Ghio '07, TB) was a showstopper with deep red standards and rim on electric violet falls. 'Forever Blowing Bubbles' (Ghio '07, TB) is a gorgeous pure white with perfect form.

Texas Hybridizer Tom Burseen's vigorous irises with the often comedic names did well here. 'Comangetit' (Burseen '07, TB) is a bright, clean white amoena, with an unusual fall pattern. The white falls have yellow gold shoulders, veining and narrow rim just inside a ruffled white edge, topped off by a bright orange beard. It was one of the more vigorous clumps in this garden, with seven stalks and plenty of increase. 'Have A Goodun' (Burseen '06, TB) is a very distinctive and unusual flower, with white standards sporting an apricot wire rim, apricot and rose blended falls, and a wonderful dark rusty brick colored beard. Two spaceagers with large flounces were the purple bitone 'Smith Named Keith' (Burseen '05, TB) and 'Hurry Up Sun' (Burseen '06, TB), a blue-white with red beards and frilly white, lavender ribbed flounces.

Spaceagers seemed to thrive in this garden. Some colorful eye-catchers were 'Clown Around' (Christopherson '03, TB) a red on cream plicata with spoons, and 'Dutchman's Dream' (Van Liere '05, TB) a ruffled pink and lavender with fuzzy orange and white horns. 'Morning Revielle' (Le Roy Meininger '04, TB) is an orchid pink with large tangerine and yellow beards with lavender pink spoons. A couple of broken-colored irises were also not to be passed up! 'Squid Squirt' (Kasperek '02, TB) is a lacy pink with excellent form, sporting lavish purple splashes and an orange beard. 'Liger' (D. Spoon '05, TB) has bright yellow gold standards and rim on a white fall with purple splashes.

I enjoyed seeing the lovely rimmed irises 'American Master' (Kerr '06, TB) and 'Clothed in Glory' (Kerr '06, TB). 'American Master' has soft yellow standards and white falls with a lovely blue water-color rim in the 'Emma Cook' pattern. 'Clothed in Glory' has rich golden yellow standards. The falls have a white area lined and washed gold and a dark red rim, topped by a gold beard. 'Call Attention' (Kerr '05, TB) did call attention to this blue amoena with wide, overlapping falls and tall, well-

branched stalks.

A few other TB's caught my eye. 'Got Milk' (Aitken '02, TB) is a very nice pure white iris. 'Full Figured' (Tom Johnson '05, TB) has wide, velvety dark purple falls, a wide bright orange bearded accented by white marks on either side, and is topped with icy lavender white standards. 'Blueberry Bliss' (Schreiner '04, TB) is a rich true blue with nice branching. 'Augustine' (Schick '05, TB) is a lacy coral pink, distinctive rose wash on the falls, and a super bright orange beard.

As elsewhere, M.D. Faith's Louisiana irises put on a great show at the Natural Gardener. They were grown on the edge of the iris garden along a stand of shrubby trees, which provided some relief from the hot sun. There were large, vigorous clumps of the DeBallion Medal winner 'My Friend Dick' (Butler by M.D. Faith, LA '98) with its magnificent velvety red flowers. Also looking well was the snowy white 'Lulu E' (Faith '05, LA), which has lacy, serrated edges and small yellow line signals. 'Henry Rowlan' (Faith '02, LA) is a rich purple that makes a nice clump everywhere I've seen it grow.

After another stop at the shady refreshment tent for some icy homemade limeade, I explored the rest of The Natural Gardener. I was impressed by the well stocked selection of plants and flowers for sale and local gardeners were filling red wagons with their selections. The gift shop also carried a wide variety of gardening items, tools, and lovely gifts, along with a large and interesting selection of organic fertilizers and products. I enjoyed the spacious and well laid out Butterfly Garden, where a four foot tall metal sculpture of a Monarch butterfly held court beside a rock water garden featuring blooming Louisiana irises. The Natural Gardener nursery is a real treasure for gardeners in Austin, and it was a wonderful treat for AIS members at the Lone Star State '08 Convention. 

Introducing Tracy Plotner

I have been a member of our local chapter GREATER PORTLAND IRIS SOCIETY for many years. I have held the office of Secretary, Vice President and President. I currently am the REGION 13 Membership Chair and caretaker of the AIS Library.

The AIS Library is located in the heart of iris country, Silverton, Oregon. It is a research library only. We collect all items of interest from breeding records, medals and trophies, pictures, garden catalogues, books and papers. These are kept and collected for future generations. It is our hope that sometime in the future a building of our own can be either leased or purchased. When that happens we can then open the library to the public.

I first became aware of iris when my husband Will, started bringing home starts from a local hybridizer Chet Tompkins. Soon we had a yard and then some full of iris and more appearing all the time. I started going to meetings at the local chapter with Will and soon wanted to be a judge. I had the fortune of being recruited by Marky Smith, a wonderful friend, and teacher, who at that time was Region 13 Vice President. As they say it went on from there.

Our nursery, Wildwood Gardens, has been on tour several times for National Convention in Portland. We have also been on tour for Region 13 events, and the Japanese and Siberian-Species Conventions in recent years. We have about 1,500 varieties including Species, Siberians, Japanese, Medians, and Tall bearded. We also include an extensive collection of daylilies. Our collections grow in size yearly.

All throughout our busy schedules I also find time to work on Family Genealogy and hold down a full time plus job working for a local hospital. I have my eyes on retirement in several years. ❧



Weed Control (Nut Grass)

Fay Huddleston and Rena Shrum

Most gardeners can hardly wait for Spring and the arrival of the beautiful flowers that come with it. Unfortunately, the weeds and seeds from the previous years begin to bloom as well. The Twin States Iris Society maintains two Iris beds, and they were being taken over by a weed called Nutsedge. For those of you who are not familiar with this weed, let me give you a brief history. Nutsedges are often referred to as "nutgrass" and resemble grasses; they are not grasses but true sedges. Their leaves are thicker and stiffer than most grasses and are arranged in sets of three at the base. Yellow and purple nutsedges produce tubers, which are called "nuts" or "nutlets." These tubers are produced on rhizomes (underground stems) that grow as deep as 8 to 14 inches below the surface of the soil. Buds on the tubers sprout and grow to form new plants.

The TSIS beds had both types of nutsedge. Before we identified and educated ourselves on the necessary measures to eradicate this weed, we were constantly pulling the weed out, (the nutsedge pulls easily), however when pulled manually, the roots released tiny nuts that produced a new plant, so the pulling was the worst thing we could have done. We tried digging the Nutsedge, being careful to get the tiny nuts but the they were tangled in the iris roots and continuing to multiply. Had it not been for the efforts of Master Gardener, Fay Huddleston who researched the appropriate controls that were available for this and other aggressive weeds, we may have had to dispose of the iris and take aggressive measures with the soil to eliminate this weed.

The weeding of the beds had become a serious problem and the bed maintenance committee was unable to keep up, so it was a must that we minimize the need for hand weeding. In this regard, the following is a tried and true method and is recommended:

Pre-emergence herbicide such as (Preen, Treflan, or Snapshot) is applied every 60 to 90 days to prevent weed seed germination. (Starting in February, ending in November). Some common weed germination which can be prevented with these products is as follows: annual bluegrass, crabgrass, goosegrass, foxtail, chickweed and groundsel. Granules are broadcast over the surface of the iris beds. One- half inch of rainfall or irrigation after application is required to dissolve the granules and to move the herbicide throughout the underlying soil where it contacts weed seeds.

Post emergence herbicide i.e. (Manage, Basagran) have been used to control annual yellow and purple nutsedge. Application

method is directed foliar spray being careful that the spray does not contact the iris foliage. (This is possible by covering the iris clump with a cardboard box, and to avoid spraying on windy days).

Round-up is used as directed foliar spray to control Bermuda grass, Nimblewill, Dalasgrass and Fescue. Again when Round-up, Manage, or Basagran are used, iris foliage must be protected against the spray. Two applications must be made of post-emergence herbicides. A good approach is to make an initial application and repeat three weeks later. Allow one week after the second herbicide application before working the soil.

For those of you who are fighting wild onions, the best option is physical removal. 2,4- D Ester may be applied (hands on) with a cotton glove when the temperature is above 60 degrees. It is very important to wear a rubber glove under the cotton one so the chemical will not burn or be absorbed into the skin. Cutting tops off onions does not suppress or gain control. Two applications of 2, 4-D Ester are necessary. (November, mid March). Note: As with any chemicals be sure to wear the necessary protection.

Maintenance of the TSIS beds is once again in control and the nutsedge infestation is a bad memory. Many thanks to Fay Huddleston and her husband Charles, for their determination to rid our iris beds of the weed infestation, and for sharing their knowledge of horticulture with our many gardening buddies. Also many thanks to the TSIS bed maintenance committee for their efforts in keeping the iris beds healthy and beautiful. It is our hope that the information included in this article will be an asset to your gardening experiences.

Pacific Coast Iris Hybrids — Growing Tips

Joyce Prothero, Salt Spring Island

(Next to Vancouver Island) British Columbia

For those of us living along the Pacific Coast and gardening in lightly wooded conditions with neutral-to-acid soil, growing Pacific Coast Iris (PCI) is as simple as attuning ourselves to their natural cycle of activity and dormancy. For others, it is understanding that cycle, and approximating the growing conditions associated with winter rains and summer droughts.

The westward-facing slopes of the coastal mountains from northern California to southern Washington contain the native habitats of seven or so species of Pacific Coast Iris. Iris tenax, the northernmost species, is found in southwest Washington state and probably would also have been in southern British Columbia before being scoured out during the last Ice Age. Adjacent PCI species interbreed readily to produce fertile hybrids that have great variability in the color and

form of flowers, the size and shape of leaves, and habit of plants. Human intervention, inadvertently or deliberately, has increased the opportunities for interspecific crossings and the opportunities for additional hybridizations, thus adding to the variability among modern PCI cultivars.

Growing PCIs should be relatively easy for most mild-climate gardeners because the majority of PCIs available from nurseries are likely to be hybrids, and hybrids tend to be more adaptable than the parent species. However, it is important to appreciate that the annual growing cycle of PCIs begins with the fall rains, culminates in late-spring blooms and, under dry conditions, includes a period of summer dormancy. This cycle leads to the following recommendations for care:

Transplanting and dividing. PCI roots resent disturbance, particularly during dormancy. Hence, dividing or transplanting is best done just as root growth resumes in late September or early October.

Grooming. PCIs are evergreen but, as with all “evergreen” foliage, some of the older leaves wither and dry as newer leaves mature. If drought forces PCIs into summer dormancy, most or all of the leaves may die. After having tried both the “do nothing” and the “cut-down-all-foliage-in-the-fall” approaches, I’ve decided to groom each PCI hybrid on an ad hoc basis, removing the shrivelled foliage every few months as it becomes unsightly. Spent flowerheads should be removed promptly unless seeds are desired.

Propagation. Vegetative propagation through plant division is the only way to replicate a particular PCI hybrid. Division is best done in the early fall, just as new root growth begins. Divide by lifting a mature plant (or a portion thereof if you’re super-cautious), separating the clump into segments of three or more fans, and then promptly replanting or potting the divisions.

Propagation through seeding introduces unbelievable variability in offspring and an adventure in propagation not to be missed—but that’s another story. Seeds ripen in late August and can be sown immediately or stored in a dry location for planting later in the fall or the next spring. For ease of monitoring growth progress, I sprinkle seeds into small pots containing a porous seeding mix and cover the seeds with a thin layer of grit. Again, seedlings are best left undisturbed until the following fall. Before then, if seedlings are at least 4” high, transplanting can be attempted if root disturbance is minimized.

Pests. My PCIs seem to be deer-immune, but the young leaves and flowers seem to attract slugs; use your usual methods for dealing with these slimy pests.

Even with that warning about slug predation, I will conclude by saying that if PCIs are grown in conditions approximating their natural environment, care needs should be minimal. In my garden they've proven to be cold- and drought-tolerant, immune to browsing by deer, and an anticipated source of floral diversity each spring.

Glitter In a Lense

Jean Witt, Washington

I saw this trait in my diploid MTB and BB seedlings about 20 or 30 years ago. It was not present in any of my 50 or more named diploids. This sparkling hairline edge was only one or two cells wide, and under my 12 power hand lense, these cells appeared to have no contents. They were clear as glass. From the way they caught the light, I think they must bulge slightly, acting like tiny lenses.

RE: Glitter

Gerald Richardson, Washington

Terry: I enjoyed your articles in the current AIS *Bulletin*. The one on "Glitter" especially caught my attention. The attached iris photo of my 'Gilt-Edged Bond' may be of that type. Both standards and falls have a thin, metallic gold edge. The flower also has a liberal sprinkling of diamond dust that sparkles in the sun. I've used it a bit for hybridizing, though not to intensify the gilt edge. I sent a rhizome to Bruce Filardi several years ago, and he may still be growing it. I should retake the photo; this one is from an old Polaroid, but it does show quite well the gilt edge.

"Glitter", a Metallic Edge On Your Irises

Alison Nicoll, Richmond, Nelson New Zealand

Terry Aitken writes in the January 2008 AIS *Bulletin* no 348 about a metallic edge he has called glitter that is seen on some irises.

I have been interested in this phenomenon over the last few years and have specifically been looking at the edges of our irises to identify which irises show this. I have recorded silver [most common] and gold [more rare] edges of varying width. In some cases it is a very fine edge and not that obvious. However 'Catalyst' shows a wide gold glitter band. 'Floral Act' showed a fine silver band on both stds and falls. 'Cross Current' has a wide silver band on the stds and a fine silver band on the falls. This season on 'Floral Act' the glitter did not show on all flowers. The irises 'Dare Devil', 'Eagles Flight' and 'Incantation' showed a sparkle over both stds and falls similar to Mica Schist found in rocks.

The amount of glitter was not the same over the 2 seasons I have been observing. The first season seemed to be stronger and last season not as intense. The irises had new soil this year and were not stressed as they may have been when the glitter was stronger. I am wondering if soils, weather and minerals in the soils may affect the incidence of glitter. I have made some crosses between glitter irises to see if I can enhance the edge and await results.

More Glitter From France

Michèle Bersilon

You may remember the two seedlings that exhibit glitter, 0353E and 0363H that I sent you. I saw some of the first-year bloom results of the sib cross that I did with these two plants this spring, though not many of the plants offered flowers this year. 0576D (photo attached) indeed has a fine rim of glitter on the standards, though I find that this is very difficult to photograph. At any rate, the plant seems to be very strong and the flowers have a more modern form. The substance is also very firm: the flower in the photograph is already three days old and lasted for another entire day. I did try to cross it with pollen from 'Tropical Evening', but didn't get a pod; it may just be a question of trying the cross in the other direction. On the other hand, 'Tropical Evening' did make a pod on its own. I'm wondering if the glitter trait is linked to the pollen parent?

I've seen more evidence to support the notion that 'Romantic Evening' passes on this characteristic, as I noticed that other seedlings with this cultivar as pollen parent with bits of glitter on the standards.

Tilting at the Gilded Windmill

Mary Lou Swann-Young, near Indianapolis, Z5

A resounding "Yes, Please!" for the Glitter List. Frustrating, trying to find them in the online register. Way too many registered as "gold edge" or "gilded" when they just have a yellow colored edge. IMHO - they need to say "metallic gold edge".

I have a rudimentary glitter list. All I've found so far are:

- 'Designer Gown' - metallic gold edges
- 'Lois Hanford' - same
- 'Mistress Of Camelot' - same
- 'Pewter And Gold' - may have it
- 'Prince George' - same
- 'Your Heart's Desire' - same

Been some discussion/photos on iris-photos recently. Made as many crosses as I could using Designer Gown and Prince George in the disastrous spring of 07. Have 16 seedlings up so far in my sunroom from a cross of the two. Would love to fix and augment the trait. Shows up great on the white standards of Prince George especially.

Glutton for Glitter

Terry Aitken, Region 13, zone 8

In addition to glitter edges, silver on white and blue flowers, gold on yellow and orange colored flowers, there seems to be a related phenomenon which has sometimes been referred to as "Diamond Dusting". Usually on white or pale blue irises, on a sunny day, you will sometimes see a sparkling texture which sounds like it could match the description of the reflective cells. I used up a whole roll of film trying to capture "diamond dusting" on 'Sky and Sun' (Spoon '99) at the Dallas/Fort Worth Convention.

Tall bearded irises are not the only carriers of reflective cells. This spring, I saw pronounce gold glitter on a yellow SDB seedling. What I need is time to record which plants. Perhaps we have some volunteers?

Cultural Advice from Michigan

Reprint from Region 6 Newsletter '07

1. How do you deal with moles/voles undermining your iris?

Terry Varner: I have no mole problem but do have a vole problem. I have used various things all which have worked to some degree. (1) Moth Balls--I drop one or two these into the openings of their tunnels. Has it corrected the problem totally? No, but it has helped. (2) I have found that when I grow garlic and onion plants in my iris beds that this helps to deter both voles and iris borers. Has it corrected the problem totally? Not with voles, but it has helped more than moth balls. (3) I do not like chemicals but my vole problem has forced me into this direction. This fall (September) I began to use "Vole Whacker" containing the chemical warfarin. Is it working? The verdict is out until next year. I do not have as many vole openings on the surface as before using it. It is available through Lawn and Garden Products, Inc. PO Box 35000, Fresno, CA 93745-5000. A container of 15 packets costs \$38.00 with shipping.

Bob Hollingworth: We put waterproof rat poison in short lengths of 2" diameter plastic drainage tubing anchored by a wire holder, between the iris clumps. The tubes are checked every few weeks and the bait

renewed. Beware of this method if you have pets.

Jill and Jim Copeland: For moles we use the good old Victor spear mole traps. We caught 32 moles in 2006 and 15 in 2007. We find if you can catch them as far from the house as possible they do not have a chance to get in your yard.

For voles we use an 18 inch PVC pipe sealed on one end. Put a piece of "Hawks or Tomcat" rodent killer in the end near the capped end. Slightly angle the open end downward to keep water out. Tubes are placed at intervals in the fall and left until Spring. We have not had rodent damage since we began this program.

John Coble: Mole tunnels must be "stepped down" so that voles don't use them in the winter to run from plant to plant eating rhizomes. Trap moles. (Keep trying!)

We have to use mouse poison for the voles (field mice) during the winter. Mouse traps also work.

2. Do you mow/cut back/ burn old foliage in the fall?

Terry Varner: Around November 1, I cut foliage within 2-3" from the ground, clean all iris leaves and debris. The leaves are placed in the garbage. I do not use them in my compost piles.

Dorothy Willott: We don't mow, cut back or burn old foliage in the fall. We just try to pull off dried foliage.

Anna Mae Miller: On Siberians, I use a Japanese scythe to cut the foliage after it turns golden, usually November, back to 2-3". Same with Japanese Iris. Bearded, I only remove the foliage as it browns.

Hal Stahly: I believe that if I do it properly I will (a) cut foliage of bearded irises back to 4-6 inches and remove all dying leaves; (b) cut beardless iris foliage down to ground level; (c) remove all cut foliage and dead leaves and burn or discard them in our yard waste pick-up. Having said these things, I have to admit that my good intentions "gang aft agley" and I pay for my negligence with a surplus of young borers to go after in the spring.

Bob Hollingworth: We cut back the foliage with a DR gas powered cord trimmer/mower which is maneuverable enough to trim around labels (usually – it's hell on both iris foliage and labels)

Jill and Jim Copeland: We started cutting back the foliage on beardless iris several years ago. The main reason was the unsightly dead foliage when the new growth started to grow in the Spring. We believe that this also helps to solve some of the vole problems. We cut the foliage and lay it in the rows between the iris after we get a good frost and the foliage is dying back, usually in late October. This also serves as a mulch. 

Louisianas

The evolution of a Native American Species and the Society Devoted to Them

By Robert Treadway, Arkansas

It is easy to think of Louisiana irises as beginning with the formation of the societies devoted to the flower. In fact, Louisiana irises were around long before the first society and even before Dr. Small declared Southern Louisiana as the "center of the iris universe" after he saw the fields of *I. giganteaerulea* in bloom from the window of a train as he traveled near New Orleans in the early 1920's. These southern gems had lived in the wild for years if not centuries. They had been removed from the wild and used in gardens years earlier but most of the collecting and advancement through hybridization began in the 1900's.

It was the early gardeners and collectors, mainly throughout the state of Louisiana, who realized that there was something unique in the flowers they found blooming each spring in the swamps, marshes bogs, bayous and ditches. Areas near the city of New Orleans were a hot bed of activity, and much of lower Louisiana and the coast line near the Gulf of Mexico blossomed each spring. Lafayette and the Lake Charles areas would become important in the history and development of the species. Collectors soon realized that even among the vast numbers of irises they found growing and blooming, some were more special than others. They searched out the best and most unusual of the wild species. Usually only a portion of these specimens was collected and moved into cultivated gardens. Many collectors started their collecting hobby alone but quickly found other interested collectors who shared their passion of collecting and growing the native species. Soon a network of gardeners and collectors shared not only the irises but the knowledge they each had gathered.

Although no one knows for certain how long these species have been in existence, we do know that *I. hexagona*, the first of the five currently recognized species, was recorded in 1788. It looks much like the giant blues of the Louisiana coastline but is smaller in stature and brighter in color. *I. fulva*, the second species, was recognized in 1812. It was a stalk of *I. fulva* in an 1820's watercolor of Para Warblers by John James Audubon where the term Louisiana flag was first used in describing any of the species. From this reference to the native species

irises as Louisiana flags the term Louisiana iris began.

I. giganticaerulea was perhaps the most common of the species as it was found in huge masses along the Gulf coast and around New Orleans. These tall showy plants were presented as a virtual sea of light blue or pale purple growing and blooming in huge masses wherever adequate moisture was found.

The dainty but bright copper colored *I. fulva* existed in a much broader area including Arkansas and further north into more northern areas of the Mississippi River Valley. Occasional prized yellows were found and collected. *I. brevicaulis* was found in an even wider area occurring naturally up into parts of Canada. This species gave a true blue, cold tolerance and also the zig-zag stalks, a trait still prized in modern cultivars. The last species, *I. nelsonii*, which came from one small area near Abbeville, Louisiana, wasn't discovered until the 1930's and wasn't named until 1966. *I. nelsonii* brought more reds and yellows into the gene pool and its progeny carried on a major role, as wider flower parts and ruffling gradually developed from these species into modern hybrids.

Quickly many of the collectors and gardeners became hybridizers as they began crossing the species they had collected from the wild. There was great variation in the species and natural hybrids collected, including one of the widest color ranges of any iris species. The species in the wild existed in red, white, lavender, purple, blue, yellow and a few pinks. Even with the wide range of colors available, the early hybridizers set out to produce other colors that didn't exist in the wild. Desired improvements included overlapping segments, broader flower parts, bigger signals or crests, larger numbers of flowers and better bud placement. Although early hybridizing was done with the goal of improvement and advancements in the native species, careful attention was placed on not losing the grace and beauty exhibited by the species in the wild.

The art of collecting is still an ongoing obsession for many people. People are actively collecting in Louisiana and Mississippi where some really nice things are still showing up. Florida and other coastal regions may have a lot to offer too. There have been two recent articles in the *Fleur de Lis* about collecting in the wild. As in the past, these collectors are bringing out the best examples of the species and natural hybrids that they find growing in the swamps. While some preservationists frown at removing plants from the wild, we should realize stands of the species in the wild are disappearing at a steady pace from not only man's encroachment but also natural disasters.

In the last eighty-plus years we have seen some very impressive results in the field of hybridizing. In general both the number of blooms and bud positions has increased. Flower parts have gotten much wider,

to the point that we have seen petals overlap, and often the basic flower shape has approached a round form, far removed from the open spidery forms found in nature. Ruffles, new colors, large and distinct signals often in different colors, and more patterns have emerged. Even the size of the blooms has been increased in many cultivars. The substance of many of the species and early hybrids was lacking but the newer varieties have pushed far beyond anything found in the nature.

While much work has been done through the years with the goal of producing cold tolerant Louisiana irises, one only has to look at the success of the Friendship Iris Garden located in Rochester, New York. There one can find, in the extensive collection amassed, many of the true species originally found grown and collected in the Deep South along with modern hybrids from the U.S. and Australia. Not only do these irises grow in the northern environment, they thrive and bloom too! This iris garden is a testament as to how tough these irises can be and their performance has made more than one skeptic re-evaluate his belief in cold tolerance.

The Society for Louisiana Iris has seen many changes also. What started off with a group of local people scattered primarily throughout Southern Louisiana has become a National and International organization. The face of the society has certainly changed. The Mary Swords Debaillon Iris Society was founded in 1941. Men and women alike dressed in their Sunday finery not only to attend the meetings but even to take collecting trips into the swamps. The name was changed to the Society for Louisiana Iris in 1942. The Louisiana Iris Society of America was formed in 1978. A merger of the two into a cooperating Society of the American Iris Society occurred in 1993. The number of people centralized in Louisiana has been replaced with members from many parts of the United States, as well as memberships from foreign countries. Australia has become very important source of active hybridizers. Of the three non U.S. originations to win the Mary Swords DeBaillon Medal, two were introductions from Heather Pryor from Australia.

Two hard cover books and a large number of special publications on Louisianas have been printed in recent years. The last special publication was printed in 2007. It is a collection of old articles and writings assembled by Kevin Vaughn and Marie Caillet and is dedicated to Marie for her years of dedication to Louisiana irises and to the Society.

The newsletter or journal for the Society for Louisiana Irises, the *Fleur de Lis*, is now printed in full color four times a year. A CD program with Registration and Introduction information has been produced annually including many pictures of these irises. Slide programs on various Louisiana iris topics are now available on CD too.

Conventions are still a big part of SLI. They showcase Louisiana irises and help fund the society through silent and live auctions.

Lafayette had been the central point of the conventions but recent years have found conventions hosted in Little Rock, Arkansas, Dallas, Texas and Tucson, Arizona. The 2009 convention will be in Shreveport, Louisiana and in 2010 it will be in Dallas again.

Hopefully Louisiana iris and the Society for Louisiana Irises will both continue to change and prosper. We have seen the dainty but strong beautiful flowers growing in the wild evolve into extremely different hybrids, many that only hint at their ancestry. We have learned that these irises don't need a marsh or acid soil to grow and bloom well nor do they only thrive in the South. Ordinary soil with ample moisture can produce exceptional results. Evolution has given us a wide array of new and different irises. New irises and new interest may be the key to survival, as more people in an even wider area embrace these beauties. The irises and people who grow them are all hardy lots and we can expect to see them around for years to come. More information on Louisiana irises and Society for Louisiana Irises can be found at <http://www.louisianas.org/>. 🌸

Photo: Aitken



What's in Your Wallet?!

A Praying Mantis on a rebloom bud in the fall.

Minutes Digest

Board of Directors Meeting

Austin, Texas, April 14-15, 2008

President Dr E. Roy Epperson called to order the Spring Meeting of The AIS Board of Directors at 1:00 PM on Monday April 14, 2008. A listing of attendees is included with the full minutes.

The Digest Minutes of the Durham, North Carolina meeting were approved as published in the January 2008 AIS *Bulletin*, page 103. The Full Minutes for that meeting were approved as published on the AIS Webpage.

Action taken was as follows:

- John Jones was appointed and approved as Motion Monitor.

The following interim email action was affirmed:

- That the AIS approve the appointment of Kate Brewitt as RVP for Region 16.

REPORTS:

President: Dr. E. Roy Epperson announced the resignation of the following Chairs of Standing Committees: Joyce Poling as the Iris Program Resources –(Speakers) chair, Rita Gormley as Silent Auction chair, Jim and Janet Giles as Exhibitions co-chairs, and George and Margaret Sutton as Advertising Editors. The board approved the following replacements:

- Dana Brown as the Iris Program Resources (Speakers) Chair.
- John and Barbara Sautner as the Silent Auction co-chairs.

President Epperson will appoint replacements for the Advertising Editors and Exhibitions Chair later. President Epperson noted in his report that the Chicago Botanical Garden is working to establish a Siberian Iris Garden collection. He also noted that George Edmonds has undertaken the project of recognizing the 100th anniversary of the publication of the Bertrand Farr sale list of Irises.

General Secretary: Michelle Snyder noted that the Dykes Medal has arrived. She also stated that Susan Boyce will be the General Secretary backup in case of extended trips or in case of emergency.

Treasurer: Jill Bonino reported that because of lower interest rates the rate of return on investments will be down this year. Bonino stated the need of two people to sign the investment papers. The board approved:

- That all future investment transactions require at least the President and the Treasurer (or the Treasurer's backup signer) sign the transaction for it to be completed.

Bonino also reported on her research of the possibility of the AIS obtaining a corporate credit card. The board approved:

- That the AIS obtain an AIS corporate credit card and issue a card for use

by the Electronic Services Chair for payment of fees in performance of the Electronic Services Chair's functions for the AIS. The credit card account to have a monthly limit not to exceed \$1500.00. All expenses to be approved by the normal AIS voucher approval process prior to payment of the credit card charge.

Advertising Editors: Margaret and George Sutton reported that there is still some decline in display ads. The shopping sections are still holding their own.

Registrar/Recorders: Mike Lowe stated that The American Iris Society has been approved again as the international cultivar registration authority for the genus iris for another four years. Lowe reported that the current R&I format needs to be changed shortly. Lowe mentioned that the official iris introductions need to be reported back to the registrar. One last note, Lowe reported on a problem with some questioning Registrar Lowe's acceptance of certain iris names. The board approved the following statement:

- That this discussion was brought before the Board and the consensus was that the Board endorse fully, the current position of the Registrar/Recorder in regards to acceptable iris names.

Membership Secretary: Tom Gormley's report stated that the membership is still declining. It also stated that PayPal still works well in new memberships and renewals.

Recording Secretary: Susan Boyce reported the problems she encountered with the recording machine at the Fall Board meeting have now been corrected and it is now working fine.

Publication/Sales Directors: John and Kay Ludi reported that the Eric Nies Chronicles and the Clarence Mahan books are now sold out and will not be sold anymore. Ludi also reported that the Invitation to Join pamphlets inventory is fine. One last item reported on was the need to print the new AIS seals. The board approved:

- That we print 10,000 AIS seals.

Bulletin Editor: Terry Aitken reported that the AIS *Bulletin* appears to be on budget. The July guest editor is Terry Aitken.

Affiliates: Brad Kasperek reported that the RVPs are getting the affiliate renewals done on a timely basis. A suggestion was made that a kit be made to help groups who might want to start up an affiliate club.

Awards: Ruth Barker reported that 638 Official AIS 2008 ballots were mailed out. Morris presented a petition to the board signed by at least ten judges, that an iris 'PERFORMER' be placed back on the AIS HM eligibility ballot. President Epperson quoted from the Judges Training Handbook that it is possible that an iris be placed back on the ballot after it had rotated off. The board discussed and approved:

- A proper petition having been submitted to the AIS Board, it requested that the Miniature Tall Bearded Iris 'Performer' be placed back on the AIS HM eligibility ballot.

After more discussion, President Epperson recommended that the Handbook Revision committee consider this policy and report back to the board at the fall board meeting.

Calendar: Terry Aitken reported that the cost of the calendars have gone up slightly, but it will still be under budget for this year.

Convention Liaison: Paul Gossett reported that The British Columbia Iris Society had extended an invitation to the AIS to host the 2011 convention. The board approved:

- That the AIS accept the offer of the British Columbia Iris Society to host the 2011 AIS convention in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

Donations: Donna James' report showed the monthly amounts of donations received so far this fiscal year.

Electronic Services: John Jones reported on the following: A summary of the current iris register online subscriptions, the usage of the digital projector, and the process of changing to a new website host. In addition Jones reported that in the process of scanning the AIS *Bulletin* articles and converting them to a computer text, a new piece of software is needed. The board approved:

- That the Electronic Services Chair be authorized to spend up to \$400.00 on OCR software to come from the Electronic Services Restricted fund.

Exhibitions: Jim and Janet Giles have submitted their resignations effective at the end of this iris show season.

Foundation: Roger Mazur's report stated the need for a joint ad hoc committee to discuss how to best use the new money for the funding of the AIS Library. President Epperson appointed Jeanne Clay Plank, Jill Bonino, and himself to represent the AIS Board on this ad hoc committee.

Information Resource: Anne Lowe recommended that this committee be discontinued.

Honorary Awards: Jeanne Clay Plank reported that she had contacted all past presidents and all will serve on this committee again.

Iris Resource-Speakers: Joyce Poling has resigned and as approved earlier in this board meeting, Dana Brown will assume this position.

Insurance: Michelle Snyder reported that the AIS had received a rebate of \$1732 for the last insurance premium.

Judges: Judy Keisling reported that several retired judges were dropped due to non payment of dues. Keisling also reviewed the number of judges who have not yet met the in-garden training requirement that needs to be completed by June 30, 2008. It was noted that several in-garden judges training sessions are scheduled to be held in the next several weeks.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Chair Barbara Aitken presented the slate of nominees for consideration as candidates for the four director positions on The

American Iris Society Board of Directors: Jerry Coates (4), Barbara Sautner (8), Cheryl Deaton (15), Keith Smith (17), Nyla Hughes (18), Rita Gormley (21), Gary White (21), and Hugh Stout (22).

Executive Session: The Board of Directors met in executive session to select the 2008 Director Nominees. Nominees selected as candidates to fill those three-year terms that will expire in 2011 are: Jerry Coates, Cheryl Deaton, Rita Gormley, and Gary White.

Iris Program Resources-Slides & Digital: Rita Gormley presented Janet Smith's report. It stated that many slide programs needed to be revised and updated and more money is needed to do so. The board approved the following motions:

- That the price of the program CDs from the Slides and Digital Programs be raised from \$10 to \$15.
- That the price of program slide sets used for multiple presentations on a set schedule be \$5 per additional presentation.

Photo Contest: Kitty Loberg reported that the 2008 AIS Photo contest is underway.

Policy: Jeanne Clay Plank reported on her quest in going back thru old board meeting minutes in search of all of the motions from past board meetings to be compiled in one book.

Library: Tracy Plotner submitted a list of items that were sent from the AIS Library to the 2008 convention Silent Auction. The board approved:

- That the AIS Library items for the 2008 convention Silent auction be accepted.

Scientific Advisory Committee: Gary White reported on a possible upcoming grant request from Andrew Wheeler. White also reported on Dr. Meerow's research paper and stated that one or more articles will be forthcoming from him.

Symposium: Gerry Snyder reported that he has an Excel spreadsheet available for the RVPs use in tabulating this years symposium.

Public Relations: Bob Pries' report was presented by President Epperson. The Tool Box is up and running on the AIS website. The posters are available and are great. Work has not yet begun on the AIS Wiki or the Landing Pads. Work on the coffee table book has started off slowly.

Silent Auction: Rita Gormley's report noted the Silent Auction successes over the years.

Publications: Maureen Mark reported on the following works in progress. Work on the floral arrangement book has been suspended. Betty Roberts is reviewing past *bulletin* articles on hybridizing for a possible publication for 2009. The hybridizers manual by Terry Aitken is slated for completion in 2010. The AIS centennial publication has two volunteers and is in need of a leader to head this committee.

RVP Counselor: Louise Carson announced the following election results from the Board of Counselors meeting. For 2009 - Chair, Lynn Williams (Region 14) and

Secretary, Jody Nolin (Region 6). The Nominating Committee Representatives are Harold Griffie (Region 3) and LeRoy Meininger (Region 21). The RVP Board Representative for 2008-2009 is Jody Nolin (Region 6).

RVP Representative: Jerry Coates reported that most of the attendees at the RVP meeting were first year RVPs.

Youth: Cheryl Deaton announced the results of the Ackerman Essay contest. The winners are: Joanna Huggins, Region 17 (12 and under age group) and Gabriel Lockhart, Region 18 (13 and up age group).

Section Liaison: Jim Morris reported on the section meeting. No consensus was reached on the idea that there might be a membership discount if a member joins the AIS and a section. A need was stressed that all section and cooperating society editors follow the nomenclature standards that were established by the International Committee on Horticulture when listing iris names in publications. President Epperson discussed the continuing process of the Society for Louisiana Irises in their possible quest in becoming an AIS Section. Gossett stated a need of clarification of the motion made at the 2007 AIS Fall Board meeting. The board approved:

- That there be a clarification of the motion 'That AIS accept the request of SLI to move from Cooperating Society to Section' from the November 2nd and 3rd, 2007 AIS Fall Board meeting minutes. The intent of the motion was to indicate the AIS' willingness to consider a request of the Society for Louisiana Irises to transition from Cooperating Society to AIS Section.

President Epperson announced that he had received a request from the Canadian Iris Society to consider their becoming a Cooperating Society of The American Iris Society. Maureen Mark and Sandy Ives presented the request of the Canadian Iris Society. President Epperson appointed a committee consisting of Jim Morris, Jeanne Clay, Plank, Jerry Coates, Bob Plank, and Kate Brewitt to study how to procede with this.

Nominating Committee Appointments: President Epperson appointed Judy Keisling and John Jones as Board representative to the 2009 Nominating Committee. Keisling and Jones will join Harold Griffie, LeRoy Meininger, and Judy Hollingworth as members of this Committee.

Meeting dates for the 2008 Fall Board meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada are Oct 31-Nov 2, 2008. Mary Lee Fortner will serve as the local chairman overseeing this Fall Board meeting arrangements.

President Epperson expressed sincere appreciation of the Board of Directors of the AIS and the AIS membership to Pat Byrne, Jim Landers, and all of their committees for this wonderful 2008 Austin, Texas, National Convention.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm on Tuesday, April 15, 2008. 

AIS Foundation Donations

Contributions to the American Iris Society Foundation are used for the research of the genus iris, administration of scholarships and the support of the AIS Library through the Evelyn Jones Memorial Library Fund. This research includes the taxonomy as well as the cause of diseases and their cures. Over the years, grants have been issued to the top researchers and educational institutions throughout the world.

February 2008 – May 2008

Contributions in memory of:

Lois & Jack Belardi (CA)

Clara B. Rees Iris Society (CA)

Eleanor Ditha Fink (CA)

Charles & Karma Barnes (CA)

Clara B. Rees Iris Society (CA)

Santa Rosa Iris Society (CA)

Bev & Wally Hanman (MT)

Big Sky Iris Club (MT)

Virginia Messick (CA)

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Shirley & James Guenther (TX)

Marilyn J. Holloway (CA)

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Nanette & Sam Prosser (NC)

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Ron Wolberg (CA)

Tony Willott (OH)

Paul W. Gossett (OK)

Claire Honkanen (TN)

North East Ohio Iris Society

Vernon Wood (CA)

Clara B. Rees Iris Society (CA)

Santa Rosa Iris Society (CA)

How can you make a contribution or memorial gift to the American Iris Society Foundation?

Checks should be made payable to the American Iris Society Foundation. When sending a memorial gift, please include the name and address of the next-of-kin, so an acknowledgement card may be sent. Your tax-deductible donations should be sent to:

The American Iris Society Foundation

Gary E. White Sec./Treas.

701 Old Cheney Road; Lincoln, NE 68512-1168

The AIS and the AIS Foundation are independent entities. Donations to both are both tax deductible. The primary difference between these donations is that the AIS spends both the principle and interest of the gift as needed to pursue the specific goal selected by the donor in support of the activities of the Society. The AIS Foundation spends only the interest on the gift and maintains the principle in perpetuity to help accomplish the goals of the Foundation which are to foster and disseminate knowledge and appreciation of the genus Iris.

Please see the Foundation website at www.aisfoundation.org for further information.

Donations To AIS

February 15, 2008 – May 15, 2008

Compiled by Donna James, Donations Secretary

IN MEMORY OF	FUND CODE
Floy Maberry (TX)	
West Texas Iris Society (TX)	GYF
Joanne McGrew (CA)	
Redwood Iris Society (CA)	Gen
Glenda Wiles (CA)	
Redwood Iris Society (CA)	Gen
Thelma Hall (CA)	
Redwood Iris Society (CA)	Gen
John Gilbert (CA)	
Redwood Iris Society (CA)	Gen
Alice Markley (KS)	
Wichita Area Iris Club (KS)	Gen
Rosalie Figge (MD)	
The Margaret W. Wheelock Unit NAP (MD)	Gen
Tony Willott (OH)	
Philip Bruce Schaffer (OH)	Gen
Northeastern Indiana Iris Society (OH)	R&S
Donald & Donna Lowry (NY)	R&S
Mid Illinois Iris Society (IL)	GYF
Rev. Albert Darst (MO)	
The Greater St. Louis Iris Society (MO)	GYF
Jennie Hopson (CA)	
Bob Brooks (HI)	Gen
Bill Hawkinson (CA)	
Bob Brooks (HI)	Gen
Clawson Pipkin (TX)	
West Texas Iris Society (TX)	GYF
Roy Johnson (IL)	
Prairie Iris Society (IL)	GYF
Vincent Italian (MO)	
Mid Illinois Iris Society (IL)	GYF

DEFRAY INSURANCE

Santa FE Iris Society (NM)

FUND CODE

Insurance

AIS Donation Fund Codes:

CCYA = Clarke Cosgove Youth Award Fund

*CIP-YF = Classroom Iris Project – Youth Fund

G = General Fund

G/I = General Funds Insurance Defrayment

GYF = General Youth Fund

LIB = Library Fund

R&S = Research & Scholarship

*Please note: CIP-FY = Classroom Iris Project-Youth Fund. Due to the generosity of the donors, the Classroom Iris Project Youth Fund is fully subscribed. Please consider making donations to other Youth funds.

How to Make your Donation to One of the AIS Funds

Donations to AIS Fund Accounts should be made payable to: AIS or the American Iris Society.

Mail to Donna James, 887 County Route 3, Hannibal, NY 13074-2356; (315) 598-3346; ron2don@alltel.net

Clearly identify on a separate piece of paper:

1. The recipient of the memorial or honor.
2. The Fund to which you wish the donation to be credited.
3. The name of person, persons, or organization donation.
4. The address of person(s) to notify that a donation has been made.



Judges' Training
at Ensata Gardens

2009

Tall Bearded Iris Symposium Ballot

Please vote for your favorite 25 Tall Bearded Iris Varieties

All members of the American Iris Society are urged to participate in this ballot in order that we may obtain a wide consensus of the tall bearded iris varieties that grow and bloom best in gardens throughout America. AIS affiliates are invited to vote, in addition to individuals.

This year, to save postage costs (approximately \$1200 plus the additional postage and shrink wrap), the Ballot has been printed in the *Bulletin* itself. ***You do not need to tear these pages out.*** Instead, Simply list your 25 favorite irises on a piece of paper using the identifying numbers only – no names. In the case of family memberships, each individual will have to assemble their own list of 25 numbers. This list of numbers can be sent to your RVP via e-mail or mail a post card/letter with your name and address on it to your RVP. Ballots must be received by September 1, 2008. Final results will be published as the popularity poll in a future issue of the *Bulletin*. Please vote!

Attention: *Overseas Members* are invited to vote the Symposium Ballot. Instructions and the deadline are on the following page, item #5.

Sixty-eighth Official Tall Bearded Iris Symposium of the American Iris Society

This is your ballot to help determine the One Hundred Favorite Tall Bearded Irises for 2009. The list of candidates was completed by combining the following lists of outstanding varieties:

- The 100 top varieties in last year's Symposium
- The tall bearded irises eligible for 2008 Dykes Medal
- The tall bearded irises eligible for 2008 Wister Medal
- The tall bearded irises eligible for 2008 Awards of Merit
- The tall bearded irises that won 2007 Awards of Merit
- The tall bearded irises that won 2007 Honorable Mentions

Every member of The American Iris Society may participate in this balloting of the irises listed on the following pages. Each member is allowed twenty-five votes. Please follow the instructions below.

1. Vote only for an iris that you have seen blooming in a garden.
2. List your 25 favorite irises on a piece of paper using the identifying numbers only – no names. Each family member is entitled to a maximum of twenty-five votes. Each individual should assemble their own list of 25 numbers
3. No member may vote for more than twenty-five varieties. You may vote for fewer than twenty-five if you wish. Write-in votes are not allowed and will not be tabulated.
4. **Your ballot must be mailed/emailed to and received by your Regional Vice President by September 1, 2008** in order to be counted. The name of your RVP is listed inside each AIS *Bulletin*. If sending by mail, sign your ballot and mail it first class. Please write clearly. Each RVP now has the option of accepting ballots by email (by number or by name).
5. *Overseas Members* may vote by mail or email. If voting by mail, send ballot to the Symposium Committee Chairman whose name, email, and address appear inside each AIS *Bulletin*. It is advisable to send by Air Mail to assure receipt of your Ballot by September 30, 2008. Ballots received later will be counted if at all possible, so please vote even if you can not meet that date. Email is an acceptable alternative, and a representative in each foreign country can tally that country's votes and send the totals and voters to the Symposium Chair by email or mail.

1	AARDVARK LARK	43	BINGO BANGO BONGO
2	ABBONDANZA	44	BIRTHDAY GIRL
3	ABIQUA FALLS	45	BLACKBERRY TEASE
4	ACCIDENTAL WOMAN	46	BLAZING BEACON
5	ACOMA	47	BLONDE MADONNA
6	ADOREGON	48	BLUE KENTUCKY GIRL
7	AFTERNOON DELIGHT	49	BLUEBERRY BLISS
8	AFTERNOON IN RIO	50	BOLD ENCOUNTER
9	AIRFORCE ONE	51	BOLD EXPRESSION
10	ALL NIGHT LONG	52	BOLD VISION
11	ALPENVIEW	53	BOOGIE WOOGIE
12	ALPINE LACE	54	BOWLED OVER
13	AMARILLO FRILLS	55	BOYSENBERRY BUTTERCUP
14	AMETHYST MAGIC	56	BRAVE FACE
15	AMIALE	57	BRAZILIAN HOLIDAY
16	ANGEL WINGS	58	BREAKERS
17	ANNOUNCEMENT	59	BRIDAL ICING
18	APPARENT SECRET	60	BRIDE'S BLUSH
19	APPLAUSE LINE	61	BRIDE'S HALO
20	ARMS WIDE OPEN	62	BRILLIANCE
21	AUGUSTINE	63	BROAD SHOULDERS
22	AWESOME ALEX	64	BROADBAND
23	AWESOME BLOSSOM	65	BROKEN PATTERN
24	AWESOME POSSUM	66	BRONZE PEACOCK
25	BABBLING BROOK	67	BROWN SUGAR SPICE
26	BADLANDS	68	BRUSSELS
27	BALANCING ACT	69	BUBBLE BUBBLE
28	BALDERDASH	70	BUBBLES GALORE
29	BALL OF CONFUSION	71	BY DESIGN
30	BALLERINA'S PIROUETTE	72	CALYPSO BEAT
31	BARBARA JEAN	73	CAMELOT ROSE
32	BARBARA MY LOVE	74	CAN'T TOUCH THIS
33	BATTER UP	75	CANDY APPLE CLASSIC
34	BAYBERRY CANDLE	76	CANDY CANE CUTIE
35	BEARY BEARY	77	CANNED HEAT
36	BEFORE THE STORM	78	CAPRICIOUS CANDLES
37	BEL ESPRIT	79	CAPTAIN CRUNCH
38	BELGIAN PRINCESS	80	CAPTAIN HOOK
39	BENEATH MY WINGS	81	CARL AND SISSY
40	BEVERLY SILLS	82	CARNIVAL CAROUSEL
41	BEWILDERBEAST	83	CARNIVAL RIDE
42	BEWITCHMENT	84	CELEBRATION SONG

85	CELESTIAL EXPLOSION	126	CURRENT EVENTS
86	CELTIC GLORY	127	DALAI LAMA
87	CHAMPAGNE BUBBLES	128	DANCE RECITAL
88	CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE	129	DANCING IN RUFFLES
89	CHANGING SEASONS	130	DANDY CANDY
90	CHARIOTS OF FIRE	131	DANGEROUS MOOD
91	CHARLESTON	132	DANIELLE'S LOVE
92	CHASING RAINBOWS	133	DARK DRAMA
93	CHEETAH CHEESE	134	DAUGHTER OF STARS
94	CHERRY BLOSSOM SONG	135	DAZZLING GOLD
95	CHIEF JOHN JOLLY	136	DECADENCE
96	CHINOOK WINDS	137	DECKER
97	CHOCOLATE CHESS	138	DEFINITELY DIFFERENT
98	CHOCOLATE MOOSE	139	DELICIOUSLY DIFFERENT
99	CHUCKWAGON	140	DESIGNER LABEL
100	CIRCUS DANCER	141	DESIGNER'S ART
101	CITY LIGHTS	142	DEVIL DAVID
102	CLARENCE	143	DEVONSHIRE CREAM
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IRIS RESOURCES – SLIDE AND DIGITAL PROGRAMS UPDATED PROGRAMS

A picture is worth a thousand words. For an interesting and educational meeting, an AIS Slide or Digital program may satisfy and stimulate your chapter's interest in all types of irises.

Cost: The rental fee is \$10.00 plus \$5.00 shipping. AIS Affiliate Chapters are entitled to one free set per year plus \$5.00 shipping payable to AIS, and mailed to the address below. Only one set is allowed per request date. Slides are to be returned by Priority Mail the day after viewing.

To Order: Requests for specific slide sets should be made well in advance, preferably four to six weeks. Please request alternate choices. Clearly print your name, address, phone number, and date of meeting if you mail your request by regular mail.

The following slide programs are available for rent:

Iris Introductions of, 2003

AIS National Conventions of: 2003, 2004

The Iris Family (This updated set is an introduction to the world of iris. It shows the different classes of bearded and beardless iris and the different species of iris. It can be used for all levels of viewers, new to experienced iris growers. Great for garden club programs.)

Iris Trivia (Soon also available on CD): This is a small set with questions that can be used for fun and informative meetings

We are very excited by the new digital technology and the ability to produce HIGH QUALITY pictures in PowerPoint Programs.

The following digital programs are available for purchase — each \$15.00 including postage:

*Iris Introductions for: 2005, 2006, 2007 (available soon),
2008 (available soon)*

AIS Conventions: 2005-St. Louis, 2006-Portland, 2007-OKC

Dykes Medal Winners

Median Irises

Irises And The Sections That Love Them

The Iris Family

Just For Fun-I – Are You an Iris Fan, Fancier or

Fanatic & Name The Iris

To rent slide sets or to purchase CDs, contact:

Janet Smith, P O Box 1585, Coarsegold, CA 93614-1585
 (559) 683-0447 (Home and FAX line)
 E-mail: AISSlides@irises.org

Due to the increased usage of digital pictures in lieu of Slides, there are few NEW Slide programs.

Many Affiliates still request only Slides Programs. If you have slides of Newer irises, we would appreciate having them to make new Slide programs as copying digital to slides is very expensive. Please send them priority mail and we will promptly have them copied and return to you.

Members and Affiliates:

We have many new CD programs "in the works" including: "Iris Show Designs", "Irises Through The Seasons", Garden Delights", "Iris Color Patterns and Definitions ". If you have suggestions for new iris programs or have a great presentation on irises you would like to share with others, please contact me and we'll see about incorporating it into the AIS Slides Program!

Hybridizers:

Each year we will put together a program for "NEW INTRODUCTIONS". We request both slides and digital pictures of your 2007 and 2008 introductions. This is a great opportunity for new introductions to be seen in different parts of the country and whet the appetites of already confirmed iris lovers for new and different varieties and types of irises. Be sure to send your BEST photographs for this is your "face" to the iris buying public! We show the Hybridizers in alphabetic order with an intro slide with the Name, Address, Telephone, e-mail and website address for each. We do reserve the right to limit the total number of pictures to fit in a presentation time frame.

AIS Storefront

Sale Items & Publications

The World of Irises

Highly recommended! 32 pages of full color. Edited by Warburton and Hamblen, 34 contributors and authors including international authorities. Published in 1978 and most authoritative book on all phases of irises. Scientific and popular. 6" x 9" hard bound cloth cover, 494 pages. \$15.00
Quantity discounts: 20% off for 10 or more / 40% off for 100 or more

Handbook for Judges and Show Officials

New release! Seventh Edition ©2007. Insert (new pages) \$12.00.

Insert w/cover \$15.00

Basic Iris Culture. Booklets. Great information for new iris growers. Ideal for clubs or shows. \$1.50 ea., or 25 for \$15.00 domestic/\$20.00 overseas

Convention Handbook. Free

AIS Bulletins: Back Issues

AIS Bulletins (current year and last year): \$5.00 each domestic/\$6.50 each overseas

Older issues (not all available): \$2.00 each domestic/\$4.50 each overseas

Check Lists: 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969, & 1979.

Reprint. Soft cover. \$14.00 ea. domestic/\$20.00 ea. overseas

Check Lists: 1989 or 1999

Hard cover. Ten-year compilation of registrations.

\$17.00 ea. domestic/\$25.00 ea. overseas

Registrations and Introductions:

2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007.

\$10.00 ea. domestic/\$14.00 ea. overseas

Discount Specials:

Seven 10-Year Checklists, 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, AND 1999. *ALL* for \$75.00 domestic/\$86.00 international.

Current Registration & Introductions, years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005 – *ALL* for \$45.00 domestic/\$55.00 international.

Registrations and Introductions:

Years 1984, 1985, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1998, 1999.

Clearance Sale: \$2.00 each!

75th Anniversary Commemorative Medal

Solid Silver, 1½ inches across. Only 500 struck. \$25.00

75th Anniversary Bulletin. \$2.00 domestic/\$4.50 overseas**Bronze 50th Anniversary Medals**

The AIS 50th Anniversary medal in antiqued bronze. Suitable for pendants, show prizes, and special awards. \$2.50

AIS Seals (50 per pack)

Self-adhesive ovals are larger than a half dollar. Official design in blue and green on silver background. \$2.50, 1 pack; \$10.00, 5 packs

2008 Iris Calendar

\$2.00 each, or package of 10 for \$13.00 domestic/ \$20.00 international.

Iris Post Cards (16 per pack)

\$2.00, 1 pack \$5.00, 3 packs \$15.00, 10 packs

RVP Pins \$32 (outgoing RVPs only)**Publications now available through the AIS Storefront:***The Louisiana Iris, The Taming of a Native American Wildflower, Second Edition,* \$30.00 (includes S&H).**New Publications:***Year 2007 Registrations and Introductions*

\$10.00 each domestic/\$14.00 each international

View Before You Buy! The official AIS Website now has photos of several of the Storefront sales items, so you can see what they look like.**Go to: www.irises.org**

AIS can now accept VISA & Mastercard (sorry, no other charge cards) for Storefront orders (minimum order: \$10.00). When charging your order, please include card type and number, expiration date and phone number.

Prices include postage and handling. The Storefront ships via media mail. Priority, overnight and UPS shipment charges paid by customer. Make checks payable to The American Iris Society, or include charge card information. Send order to: John and Kay Ludi
P.O. Box 956, Sandy, OR 97055; (503) 826-8808; <AISStore@irises.org>

SECTION SLIDES AVAILABLE:

The various Sections of AIS also have slide sets available for rent. These feature irises of each respective group. Requests for these slide sets should be submitted as follows:

Arils and Arilbreds: Order from Scott Jordan, 3500 Avenida Charada NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107. Rental fee \$7.50. Check to Aril Society International.

Dwarf: Dorothy Willott, 26231 Shaker Boulevard, Beachwood, OH 44122-7111. Check for \$7.50 to Dwarf Iris Society.

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS): Contact Ron James, 887 County Route 3, Hannibal, NY 13074; <ron2don@alltel.net> Rental fee \$10.00. Check to HIPS.

Japanese: Order from John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053. Check for \$5.00 to Society for Japanese Irises.

Louisiana: Donna Wolford, 2605 Oakhaven Street, Palm Bay, FL 32905; (321) 724-1676; <n8kxp@cfl.rr.com>; \$10 check to SLI.

Medians: Contact Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119th St, Vancouver WA 98685. Check for \$5.00 to Median Iris Society (MIS). One set free per year to affiliates.

Pacific Coast Native Irises: Contact Terri Hudson, 33450 Little Valley Road, Fort Bragg, CA 95437; (707) 964 3907; <irishud@earthlink.net>. Rental fee \$7.50 to SPCNI. Two sets available, species or hybrids.

Rebloomers: Contact George Sutton, 16592 Road 208, Porterville, CA 93257; <info@suttoniris.com>. Check to Reblooming Iris Society. Rental fee is \$7.50.

Siberians: Order from Robert Hollingworth, 124 Sherwood Rd E, Williamston, MI 48895. Check for \$10.00 to Society for Siberian Irises.

Species: Several sets available. Order from Mike Zuraw, 1 Pondview Drive, Bethel, CT 06801-1266; <mjzuraw@aol.com>. Check for \$10.00 to SIGNA.

Spurias: To order, contact Riley Probst, 2701 Fine Ave., Modesto, CA 95355; (314) 346 7999; <rprobst02@earthlink.net>. Check for \$10.00 to Spuria Iris Society.

AIS Bulletin Back Issues

two years or older; not all issues available

\$10.00 25 *Bulletins* \$15.00 50 *Bulletins*

Ideal to hand out at shows, sales and other activities. Our choice of issues, depending on availability; shipped in packs of 5 or 10. Price includes postage and handling. Make check payable to American Iris Society. Order this special offer separately from regular Storefront orders, directly from:

John & Kay Ludi P.O. Box 956, Sandy, OR 97055

(503) 826-8808 <aisstore@irises.org>

AIS Bulletin Ad Rates

“Without advertising, a terrible thing happens... nothing!”

Ad Submission Requirements

To place an ad, please contact the advertising editor. All ads must have a hard copy submitted to the advertising editor. List of specifications regarding digital submissions is available. *We can not accept MS Publisher or WordPerfect files, as we do not have software to open them.* Payment is due with ad copy. The deadlines for ad submissions are as follows: August 15 (October issue); November 15 (January issue), February 15 (April issue), May 15 (July issue). Send ad and payment (payable to AIS) to: George Sutton.

Shopping Section

Found in the back of each *Bulletin*. Placement is roughly alphabetical. Rate is for 4 issues. All ads are 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ inch wide.

\$44.00	1 $\frac{5}{16}$ inch
\$60.00	1 1 $\frac{5}{16}$ inch
\$80.00	2 1 $\frac{5}{16}$ inch

Display Advertising

Black & White:

\$35.00	1 inch	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 1
\$60.00	$\frac{1}{4}$ page	4 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ (wide), or 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ x 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ (tall)
\$90.00	$\frac{1}{2}$ page	4 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ (wide), or 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ x 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ (tall)
\$160.00	Full page	4 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 7 $\frac{1}{2}$

Color:

\$120.00	$\frac{1}{2}$ page, interior page.
\$200.00	Full page, interior page.
\$175.00 each	Full page, interior page, 4 consecutive issue discount.
\$300.00	Full page, inside back cover.
\$300.00	Full page, inside front cover.
\$400.00	Full page, outside back cover.

Note new display advertising rates! January 2008, rates were rolled back to those in effect as of the July 2004 Bulletin. Contact George & Margaret Sutton, 16592 Road 208, Porterville, CA 93257; (559) 784-5107; <AISAdvertising@irises.org>

Bulletin of the AIS Shopping Section

About Iris Farm

I have ABOUT 507 Tall Bearded,
ABOUT 65 Median, ABOUT 78
Rebloomers, and a few of ALL
72 Dykes Medal American
Winners

Ages range from ABOUT 500
Years old, to a few months old.

Web Catalog ONLY at
aboutirisfarm.com

Red Foster - 405-833-8357
info@aboutirisfarm.com

Accent Iris Garden

Presented By
Vincent Christopherson
2001 through 2007

Due to human frailty, the 2008
introductions will arrive in 2009.



ON THE WEB



www.toolsbydesign.com/vciris/

Request price list by mail:

Accent Iris Garden
3301 Hanover Drive
Arlington, Texas 76014

Price list via email:
vciris@sbcglobal.net

Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden

Award winning Irises

Bearded and Beardless. Introductions
by Terry Aitken, Ken Fisher, Chad
Harris, Bennett Jones, Lynn and
Stephanie Markham, Marky Smith
and Jean Witt.

\$4.⁰⁰ for Color Catalog
Aitken's Salmon Creek Garden
608 NW 119 St
Vancouver WA 98685



Online catalog: www.flowerfantasy.net

ARGYLE ACRES



Joe & Donna Spears
910 Pioneer Circle East
Argyle, Texas 76226
940-464-3680
Toll Free Fax 866-320-IRIS
www.argyleacres.com

HISTORIC AND MODERN
BEARDED IRISES

SHOPPING SECTION

BAY VIEW GARDENS

of Joseph J. Ghio

1201 Bay St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Send \$3.00 for catalog listing the newest and finest in Tall Bearded and Pacifica irises

BLUE

J

IRIS

Hardy Heartland Iris

Best quality iris
chosen from our
4,000 varieties: Newer,
historics & more.
Good prices.

955 Cody Ave., Alliance, NE 69301
(308)762-4420

www.blueiris.com



*Old & New
Varieties
GREAT VALUES*

BLUEBIRD HAVEN IRIS GARDEN

6940 FAIRPLAY ROAD

SOMERSET, CA 95684

(530) 620-5017 • Catalog \$1.00

Bridge In Time Iris Garden

3057 Mitchell Weaver Rd.

Scottsville KY 42164

Wilkerson Introductions Only

Bois d'Arc Gardens



*Specializing in Louisiana Irises
Thousands in bloom Old and New
Visitors Welcome by Appointment
Bloom Season March & April
Contact Information*

Bud and Rusty McSparrin

1831 Bull Run Road Schriever, LA 70395

Phone: 984-446-2329 EMail: bois@charter.net

Catalog on Line: <http://www.bois-darc.com>

Bountiful Bulbs

*Old
and
New
Varieties*



*BEARDED
AND
BEARDLESS
IRIS
DAYLILIES
AND GLADS*

Melynda Kearn

478c E. 1500 N.

Rupert, ID 83350

208-532-4500

or

208-431-4501

bountifulbulbs.com

BURSEEN IRIS

1513 Ernie Lane

Grand Prairie, TX 75052-1106

*New Introductions from Tom Burseen
and most other hybridizers.*

**To place an ad, contact the
advertising editors:
George and Margaret Sutton
16592 Road 208
Porterville, CA 93257
(559) 784-5107
info@suttoniris.com**

SHOPPING SECTION



CADD'S BEEHIVE IRIS GARDEN

Anna & David Cadd
329 North St
Healdsburg, CA 95448
(707) 433-8633
caddsiriris@comcast.net

By Appointment Only



Irises from

Carol & Ken Coleman
2606 S. Pond St.
Boise, Idaho 83705-3839
cirisonpond@netscape.net
www.cirisonpond.com
208 336 3052



Chapman Iris

RR #1, 8790 Wellington Rd 124
Guelph, ON, N1H 6H7 Canada
chuck@chapmanirises.com
WWW.chapmanirises.com

Cold Climate *Rebloomers*
Cold Climate *Spuria*
Huge Selection of *Median Iris*
Newest and best *Tall Bearded*
Siberian and *Species*

Hybridizing for cold climate Hardiness and Rebloom

USA orders for bearded iris are shipped
from Niagra Falls New York
No customs delay or hassle

Catalogue \$3.00



COLLIER'S GARDEN

TOM COLLIER
P.O. Box 32
Lawson, MO 64062-0032, USA

**Daylilies, Louisiana Irises &
Reblooming Bearded Irises**

FREE Catalog upon Request

Phone: 816 - 580-7116

Mobile: 913 - 226-0586

Email: thomascollier@juno.com

GOLDEN'S IRIS GARDEN

Specializing Quality TB Iris
Satisfaction Guaranteed

4564 Robin Dr.
Prescott, AZ 86301
(928) 445-0503
barrygolden@hotmail.com

Send for free catalog.

check out the AIS web site at
www.irises.org

SHOPPING SECTION

Comanche Acres Iris Gardens

12421 SE State Rt. 116

Gower, MO 64454

**Quality TB, Spuria &
Louisiana irises
at reasonable prices.**

- Introductions by -

Jim Hedgecock, Jimmy Burch
and Charles Jenkins

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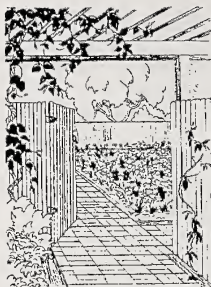
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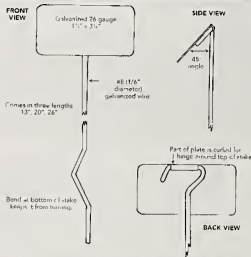
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ISSN 0747-4172

Volume LXXXIX, No. 4 Series No. 351 October 2008

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The *Bulletin of the American Iris Society* is published quarterly by The American Iris Society. Publishing Office, 10606 Timber Ridge Street, Dubuque, IA 52001-8268. Periodical postage paid at Dubuque, IA, and at additional mailing offices. Subscription price is included in membership dues. All copy due in Editor's office by Nov. 15 (Jan.), Feb. 15 (April), May 15 (July), Aug 15 (October). This *Bulletin* was printed by Bridgetown Printing. Copyright © 2008 The American Iris Society.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Bulletin of the American Iris Society*, 10606 Timber Ridge Street, Dubuque, IA 52001-8268

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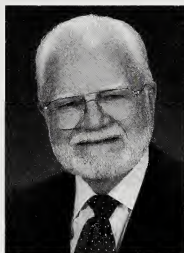
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President's Message

By E. Roy Epperson, North Carolina

In late June, I was contacted by the Arnold Arboretum Horticultural Library of Jamaica Plain, MA, with an invitation for The American Iris Society to receive a set of *Bulletins* (Vol. 1, No. 1 through Vol. 84, No. 331) all hardbound in excellent condition. The years 1920 – 1963 are from the personal collection of Harold W. Knowlton, our seventh president. The library is reorganizing and is deaccessioning runs of journals that do not reflect their core focus of woody plants. After determining that the AIS library does not need this run, I accepted them on behalf of the AIS and have received them and am utilizing them in my home library as archival material. I will pass these along to the next president for their use. It is very valuable to have a complete run of the *Bulletin* for archival purposes.



The *AIS Bylaws*, Article II, Section 3 state: "In furtherance of these purposes, the AIS Board of Directors shall designate and constitute certain geographical divisions as official AIS Regions. The AIS Board of Directors shall, as deemed necessary in furtherance of the purpose of the AIS, rescind or change the designated boundaries of such official AIS Regions." As my home Region, Region 4, in its present geographical configuration, came into existence January 1, 1959 and is now approaching its 50th anniversary, I became curious as to the geographical changes in regional boundaries that the Board of Directors had authorized over the years. Unfortunately, the Board minutes are silent on most of the changes that I have documented through the listing of the Regions in each issue of the *Bulletin*. Each of these changes appeared in the January *Bulletin* of the designated year.

- 1957: New Mexico was removed from Region 12 and became Region 23.
- 1959: North Carolina was moved from Region 5 to Region 4.
- 1959: Mississippi and Alabama were removed from Region 7 to become Region 24.
- 1961: Arizona was moved from Region 12 to Region 15 – Southern California & Arizona, leaving Utah as the only state in Region 12.

Other changes that have occurred that I am still researching are: the move of Staten Island, NY from Region 19 to Region 2; the addition of Alaska to Region 13; the addition of Puerto Rico to Region 5; and the addition of Hawaii to Region 14.

It has been suggested that now may be the time to reconsider the regional geographical boundaries to achieve a more equitable distribution of membership and accredited judges.

Jean Morris served AIS for many years as Chair of the Youth Committee. She has now undertaken a new project for the Missouri Botanical (MOBOT) Garden in St. Louis, MO. She has been authorized to plant an iris bed with irises named for characters in children's literature to be called a "Storybook Garden" and it will be located in a small part of the Alice Goodman Iris Garden which we visited at the 2005 AIS Convention. This idea will be repeated at an established urban, private school – City Academy that serves pre-K through grade 6 students and has extensive gardens already built. All of these gardens will be used to teach how irises get their names, a bit about hybridizing, and also try to get the students to connect something about the irises with the story, etc., for which it was named. Jean has a list of the irises (e.g., 'Dumbledore') that are being considered for inclusion in these gardens. A list has been sent to hybridizers. If you are interested in this project, please contact Jean Morris for the wish list and be sure to read on in this issue to learn more about the project. This is a marvelous expression of this stated purpose of AIS "...education of the public through exhibitions, public display gardens, published standards for judging and local, area, regional and national meetings open to the public." Well done, Jean Morris!!

Each year the AIS Awards Chair receives and tabulates the Official Ballots of the accredited AIS judges. Before the results are released to the public and the website, our protocol is that the AIS President personally notifies each of the medal winners for that year. This is one of the most satisfying tasks the AIS President has. Thank you for granting me this privilege. 🌸

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Editor's Message

By Kelly D. Norris, Iowa

A gardener's vigilance in summer is almost assuredly abated by the cooler, shorter nights of autumn, at least in the Midwest. 8:00 PM escapades in the garden are done under the auspices of flashlights instead of hazy sunlight flickering over the horizon as might have been the case in July. Tasks that would otherwise be chores in the dogged heat of summer become pleasurable last chances as the days count down to the first freeze. It's about this time of year that my thoughts wander beyond the bulbs I'm usually planting, the leaves I'm usually raking, and some of the rebloomers I might be enjoying. I dream past the bitter coldness of our Midwestern winters, past the snow, and ice to a new day in spring when I might again enjoy my garden in full spring splendor.



It's the contrast between seasons that has inspired poets and writers for centuries. Something old and something new. It's often used, pairing two divergent ideas together in hopes of crafting a unique blend of wistful reminiscence and stylish modernism. It's the theme of this issue of the *Bulletin*. Something old is covered by our appreciation of historic irises in this edition. Mike Unser has shared his love of Kleinsorge irises with us and a charming gallery of photos of some of his prized plants. Paul Gossett reminds us of the importance of preserving our floral heritage in an essay on the history of the Historic Iris Preservation Society.

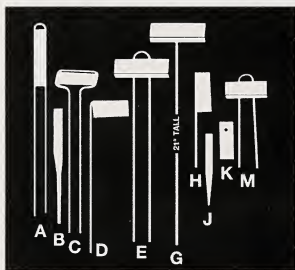
And as is typical of my work, something new abounds, or at least something interesting! We've invited Bob Pries, chairman of the AIS-Public Relations committee, to contribute his always thought-provoking discourses in a op-ed style column entitled "Bob Pries On:". British National Collection holders Rita and Edmund Heaton have written an installment for *The Other Irids* series about their passion, *Sisyrinchium*, or the blue-eyed grasses. I'm certain you'll enjoy their insightful look into this underused clan of the *Iridaceae*. Award-winning youth member Gabe Lockhart has shared his thoughts with us from his first AIS convention in Austin this past spring. First convention experiences are always admirable testaments to the goodness of iris people. Another culture corner

installment is appearing this month featuring the apparently debatable topic of irises as companion plants with other perennials.

All this raises an important point. If something we publish unsettles you, write us a rebuttal. We'd love to publish it. If something inspires you to celebrate irises in a new way in your garden, share your joy! Discourse, styled in either dissent or consent, is a meritorious element of a healthy organization. We owe it to ourselves, as plantspeople and as irisarians to carry on the cause of promoting the joys of gardening. Join in the debate. It's your society.

It's my sincere hope that this issue finds you well and enjoying the gardening life. This issue could not have been finished without the unwavering commitment and assistance of Rita Gormley. She's our proverbial hunter-gatherer when we need her, and her efforts were invaluable as always. Terry and I will look forward to your contributions in the future and the content that will come to grace the pages of this our society's *Bulletin*. 🌸

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Milestones

Compiled by Jim Morris, Missouri

Attention Affiliate (Club) Presidents and Club Reporters: This column is for you to publicize your major events and milestones. If you do a little planning, your next major event such as a significant club anniversary or regional tour can be publicized here! Not enough of you are using this medium of free advertising of your club's activities. Send me your news. As always, my contact information is listed in the front of the *AIS Bulletin* under **Section Liaison**. Copy deadlines are also listed therein.

Kudos

A big thank you was made by past Region 21 RVP Gary White and new RVP LeRoy Meininger to Vince and Donna Fox. They completed eleven years work as editor and assistant on the *Region 21 Bulletin*. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the folks who do these volunteer jobs for our regions and affiliates. It all starts at the grassroots of our clubs.

Platte Valley Iris Society Formed

A new club was formed February 19, 2008 in Kearney, NE. Melodie Bellamy of Kearney was elected president, the club name selected, and the charter dues and an agenda for the first year were set. The affiliation process has been completed and Region 21 has its eighth and newest iris society.

Greater Kansas City Iris Society

These folks are active. Not only are they hosting the AIS National Convention "Three Trails KC" May 11-16, 2009 in Overland Park, KS, but they are also hosting the 2008 Region 18 Fall Meeting October 3-4, 2008 (as we go to press) in Kansas City and at the Kansas State University Research and Extension Center nearby.

The Iris Society of Massachusetts

In their twice yearly newsletter *IRID-ISM* editors Barbara Schmieder and Stephanie Markham report the various winners of their ISM Photo Contest. They report hundreds of entries in categories ranging from Studio Portrait and Garden Glory through Admiration (pictures of someone admiring irises). I especially enjoyed the Admiration winner by Pat Norton showing the Japanese iris 'Easter Pastel' with a young admirer.

In Memoriam

Esther Fletcher Tams

(July 19, 1913 – August 3, 2008)

Tams, 95, of Region 12, passed away peacefully at Sunshine Terrace in Logan, Utah. Esther was born in Wellsville, Utah where she spent the majority of her life. She was the third child of four born to Alexander and Margaret Williamson Fletcher. She received a B.S. in Home Economics in 1936 and an M.S. in Home Economics Education in 1950 from Utah State Agricultural College (now Utah State University). She taught high school in Battle Mountain and Overton, NV, and at Wellsville Junior High School for a total of 19 years. She was a member of the Old Main Society at Utah State.

Esther and Merlin Tams were married in 1956. They had no children. She was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served as Primary president.

A friend of iris hybridizers Melba Hamblen and Tell Muhlestein, Esther always had a love for her flower garden and her cats. For a period of time in the 1960s and 1970s she hybridized and registered 13 irises, ten TBs and three BBs, introducing eleven of them via Tell's catalog and one on her own in 1979 following Tell's death in 1978. She became famous for winning the Dykes Memorial Medal for 'Dream Lover' (Tams 71, TB) in 1977. Thus she became only the second person in Utah to ever win the Dykes (Muhlestein was the other with 'Swan Ballet' in 1959). She won two other HMs with 'Pink Divinity' and 'Tam Lin'. She was an AIS Judge for many years. Brad Kasperek became acquainted with her through the Utah Iris Society and what stood out in his mind was, "her incredible modesty over winning a Dykes Medal. When talking about her award she would always get this totally charming expression of bewildered amazement as if she would never fully comprehend why she received it. It made me wish I had the power to give her a second Dykes Medal for just being the wonderful person she was."

Esther Tams is survived by her husband, Merlin Tams, who continued to care for Esther with daily visits to the Sunshine Terrace. She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Catherine Olson and Elizabeth Wilson; and brothers, Eugene Fletcher and Alexander Fletcher.

Monte L. Stahl

(November 2, 1946 – June 2, 2008)

Stahl, 61, of Oklahoma City, OK, in Region 22, “left this garden for another... since her irises had bloomed and she was ready to move on to a garden more promising.” Called “B-do” by her family, Monte was born in Oklahoma City to Florence and Dave Henderson and she lived and gardened there her whole life. She received a B.A. in Psychology from Oklahoma University and worked in the Sleep Lab of Presbyterian Hospital in Oklahoma City for nine years. In 1968, she met and married the love of her life, Rick M. Stahl. She worked with her husband in their family businesses, B-do managing the apparel manufacturing plant in Stroud until her retirement in 2006. Her pets and her garden were her passions. Her garden was one of those on tour for the AIS Convention in 2007. She was a life member of AIS and active in the Oklahoma Iris Society, especially iris shows. She served as secretary of the Society for Louisiana Irises. She was also a member of the Hemerocallis Society, the Amaryllis Society, and the African Violet Society. In addition to her son, Christopher Martin Stahl, Monte is survived by her sisters, Susan Petersen, Jeanne Charitan, and brothers Dave Henderson and Paul Henderson. While she will be missed by all who knew her, when they look at a flower, especially an iris, she will be with them in memory. 🌸

Errata:

As with all human-guided enterprises, mistakes are bound to occur. The *Bulletin* staff acknowledges the following errata, with apologies, thanks to the keen eyes of observant readers like you.

- In the AIS Foundation Donations report the word principle was used incorrectly in place of principal.
- The Society for Japanese Irises convention to be held in Portland will take place in 2011 instead of 2012 as previously printed in the July issue.

Youth Views

Cheryl Deaton, California

What does an AIS Youth member look like? They are all under 19 years old, but they can be any age from newborn on up. Are they tall or short, shy and curious or bold and brash? Are they outgoing, reserved, or observant? Do they like sports, music, art or reading? Do they grow things other than iris? The youth members I've met are a combination of all these qualities, interests and characteristics. They are enthusiastic, polite and extremely personable. Take the time to get to know one of our youth members, or better still, take a young person you know to one of your local club meetings and introduce them to our iris world. Youth membership costs only \$5 per year, and they receive two issues of the Youth newsletter, *The Iris Fan*, plus eligibility for the annual coloring contest, the Ackerman Essay Contest and all the activities for youth at the annual AIS Convention. It's a fantastic investment for the future. Sign up an AIS Youth member today. You never know just what you might 'cultivate'!

Clarke Cosgrove Nominations

Once again it is time to nominate a deserving youth member for the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement. Clarke Cosgrove was an educator and believed wholeheartedly in promoting youth through education on cultivating irises. I am sure many of you know an AIS Youth member who would qualify for this award. There are only two rules you need to follow. First, only AIS Youth members may be nominated. Second, only AIS MEMBERS may nominate an AIS Youth member for the award. There are recommended guidelines for the nomination, but a youth member does not need to participate in all of the activities to be nominated for the Clarke Cosgrove Award. Here are the recommended guidelines:

- Grows a fine iris garden and shows an interest in the various iris classes and sizes
- Visits local iris gardens during bloomtime
- Attends regional/national tours
- Helps local club through participation in a committee or activity
- Promotes irises and/or the American Iris Society to others
- Signs up new AIS members
- Competes enthusiastically at shows and exhibitions

- Experiments with irises
- Demonstrates leadership skills
- Writes articles about irises for local, regional and/or national publications
- Actively hybridizes irises
- Is studying to become an AIS judge

The judges are not members of the nominee's regions, so you need to tell them why you think this particular youth member deserves the award. Complete your nomination by adding some of the youth member's personal attributes. Mail your nomination to Cheryl Deaton, 27218 Walnut Springs Avenue, Canyon Country, CA 91351-3314 or you can e-mail your nomination to region15kids@hotmail.com as an attachment. If you are using Windows Vista, you will need to mail your nomination. Remember, ANY AIS MEMBER can nominate a youth member for this award. Deadline for all nominations is January 31, 2009. Try to limit your nomination to two pages. All identities and locations of the nominees will be concealed before being sent to the judges. The winner will receive a trophy and cash prize presented at the 2009 AIS National Convention in Overland Park, Kansas.

Take a moment to think about the young AIS members you've met recently, and the contributions they have made to the American Iris Society. These youth members are the future of AIS. Send in your nomination today!

Coloring Contest

The deadline for entering this year's coloring contest was October 1, 2008, so by the time you are reading this, the judges are making their decisions. The picture for the coloring contest is on the youth website, www.youth-iris.com, and the winners in each category will receive cash awards. I will announce the winners in the January issue of the *Bulletin*.

I hope all of you will encourage young people to add an iris to their garden. I grow my grandmother's favorite iris, 'China Maid', a 1936 introduction, to this day. That's how I got started growing irises – she gave me some "extras" to start my own garden. Who knew how much my garden would grow? Until we meet again, happy irising! 

Section Happenings

By Jim Morris, Section Liaison Consultant, Missouri

It has been my pleasure this year to present iris programs for various affiliates around the U.S. When I do this I try to provide information about our wonderful and varied Sections and Cooperating Societies. We truly have a lot of floral diversity to offer gardeners in addition to the well known tall bearded irises.

One of my presentations this year was to the good folks of the Iris Growers of Eastern Indiana at their Cultural Center in Muncie, IN, the home of Ball State University. The late Median Iris Society member Jack Norrick had asked his daughter Barb Norrick to invite me to come and speak to their club about median irises. Their meeting place in the Cultural Center was funded by the Ball Corporation (manufacturers of Ball glass canning jars since 1886), and it is a stupendous place free to local gardening groups. The Ball brothers began operations in Buffalo, NY and moved to Muncie (where a supply of natural gas had been discovered in the late 1800s) after a fire at their Buffalo factory. Muncie was chosen because the city had offered free land to rebuild the factory. The Balls acquired many smaller companies, and mass produced as well as distributed glass canning jars across the country. They became the leaders in the industry surpassing Mason and Kerr. The Iris Growers of Eastern Indiana are led by president Kent Rumbaugh and are to be envied for their top notch free meeting place.

Historic Iris Preservation Society

Next year's AIS Convention will be held in Kansas City, MO, and HIPS president Paul Gossett reminds us that the convention committee agreed to have 300+ historic irises planted for our review. These irises were provided by several HIPS members and it is hoped that everyone attending will enjoy the plantings.

Society for Japanese Irises

In the July AIS *Bulletin*, Terry Aitken reported on the Kalamazoo, MI, SJI convention as "A Convention to Remember." From all reports it was a great event with cooperative weather and glorious bloom. Their next convention will be in Portland, OR in 2011. The SJI is raising dues effective January 15, 2009. President Dennis Hager has suggested that to beat the dues increase you can go to www.socji.org and join or renew your membership online.

Society for Louisiana Irises

Marine biologist Mark Schexnayder continues his coordination of the environmentally oriented recovery of New Orleans from the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. An update of his and Ohio State University volunteer Amanda Hardesty's efforts is a fascinating read in the Summer 2008 issue of *Fleur de Lis*, the Journal of SLI. The City Park in New Orleans is once again filled with Louisiana iris blooms thanks to the hard work and generosity of many people. SLI and the Greater New Orleans Iris Society members are to be commended for their outstanding efforts. Schexnayder's performance in coordinating a large portion of over a million volunteers throughout the area is worthy of Nobel Prize consideration!

Spuria Iris Society

At their general membership meeting at the 2008 AIS Convention, the Spuria Iris Society awarded a plaque to Dave Niswonger as an Honorary Member. Niswonger, of Cape Girardeau, MO, is sometimes referred to as "Mr. Spuria Iris" for his near-monopoly of the Eric Nies Medal in recent years. And he had three of the top six 2008 Spuria Popularity Poll winners. Niswonger's winners included the delightful and prolific 'Adriatic Blue' (96), 'Missouri Iron Ore' (97) and 'Missouri Orange' (98). Charlie Jenkins of Scottsdale, AZ, had the other three winners including first place with 'Zulu Chief' (92).

In the Summer 2008 issue of *Spuria News*, editor Darol Jurn reports on a July day with Spuria hybridizer and enthusiast Floyd Wickenkamp, age 96, as they were digging his Spuria beds in Sun City, AZ. Though limited in his physical activity, Jurn found Wickenkamp to be in excellent mettle.

Future Section Conventions

Here are the future mini-conventions as reported by the Sections and Cooperating Societies.

Siberian/Species

June 11-14, 2009, Twin Cities Area, MN

Society for Louisiana Irises

April 23-26, 2009, Shreveport, LA

April 22-24, 2010, Dallas, TX

Society for Japanese Irises

2011, Portland, OR

Spuria Iris Society

June 2010, Portland, OR 

Iris Society Of Minnesota Invites You to *"Beardless Iris Tyme"*

June 11-14, 2009

Headquarters at Ramada Mall of America, Bloomington, MN
 952-854-3411 or 800-328-1931

NOTE: When making your reservation, be sure to mention that you are attending the Iris Society of Minnesota convention. Make your reservations by May 1, 2009 to get the special \$99.00 plus tax per night rate.

Thursday, June 11: An optional tour of Bachman's, Gerten's and Bailey's Nurseries and production areas at an additional cost of \$40.00, which will include the tours, lunch and transportation.

Friday, June 12: Meetings of the Siberian Iris Society and SIGNA, and a tour of the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum complete with garden judge's training. The day will be capped off with a welcome dinner at the hotel.

Saturday, June 13: Tours of 4-5 private gardens with spuria, PCN, species and Siberian iris. The evening banquet will be followed by a live auction of guest iris you will see in the gardens.

Sunday, June 14: All previous gardens in addition to other gardens will be open for touring on your own.

Registration: Includes Welcome and Auction Banquet and Friday & Saturday Tours.

Postmarked:	By April 1, 2009	\$175.00 per Registrant
	After April 1, 2009	\$200.00 per Registrant

Optional tour of Bachman's, Gerten's, and Bailey's Nurseries
Thursday, June 11th. \$40.00 per Registrant

Mail registration to:

Gerry Moore, Registrar ISM Convention 2009; 8293 157th St. West, Apple Valley, MN. 55124; Phone: 952-431-5140 (Tim and Gerry); Email: irisguy@hotmail.com

For more information contact: Barbara Sautner, Chairman
 2100 W. 106th St., Bloomington, MN 55431
 Phone: 952-884-8254 (Barbara and John)

For Details and registration forms go to www.irismn.org 

2009 Silent Auction

We are holding the Silent Auction again at the AIS Convention in Kansas City, MO! That means we need your contributions to ensure the success that we have enjoyed in the past years.

The Silent Auction has become a popular part of our conventions and it is a fun way to raise funds for the support of AIS. Many people have iris treasures they could donate and it is a great way for hybridizers to get their new introductions seen in different parts of the country. We are looking for iris artifacts, iris books and new or recent iris introductions. However if you would like to donate any other irises that are rare or unusual, that would work fine also. Just drop us a note and let us know what you have.

Next year's convention is scheduled for May 11-16, 2009, so please let us know what you can donate no later than **March 15, 2009**, so we can prepare the bid sheets. Send a short note to our address below, e-mail us or call. We look forward to hearing from you.

Barbara and John Sautner

2100 West 106th St.; Bloomington, MN 55431

Phone: 952-884-8254; Email: bjstaxservice@aol.com ☺

Photo: Gormley



Convention-goers huddle around the sales table.

3 Trails KC

May 11-16, 2009

by Debbie Hughes, Convention Chairman, Missouri

In the July *Bulletin*, Dr. Epperson provided some interesting data about global warming and confirmed what many of us who spend a lot of time outside have observed over the years. A recent program on PBS's Nova provided interesting information on the phenomenon called global dimming where the theory is that particulate matter in the atmosphere is actually helping slow the effects of global warming. Even vapor trails from jets have been proven to have an effect on the climate. This was confirmed during the dates of September 11-14, 2001 when commercial flights were grounded. The average variance between daytime and nighttime temperatures spiked over this time period when contrails vanished from the skies.

So if you are part of a convention committee that has poured over years of garden notes, how can you be certain the week you select to hold your convention will be the week for peak bloom for your area? Fact is you can't. All you can do is pray that the weather cooperates and do as the Iris Society of Austin did this spring by providing their guests with an enjoyable convention experience.

For the 2009 convention, the Greater Kansas City Iris Society decided to put three of our major plantings at sites where there will be plenty to see should Mother Nature decide not to cooperate. Our master planting is at Powell Gardens, a 20 year old botanic garden east of Kansas City featuring a beautiful chapel, island garden with cascading waterfalls and the longest living wall in the US. In addition to their woodland, butterfly, and perennial gardens their newest section called the Harvest Garden, opening next year, will artfully showcase food crops as they go from seed to plate.

"Iris Hill" will be wrapped in colorful ribbons of iris blooms. Our convention beds have been added to this area where they have a collection of Award of Merit TBs from the past 20 years. Their perennial garden is home to a collection of Cook-Douglas Medal winners as well as a naturalized area of *I. cristata* and other species of irises. This is also the site of the "blind" seedling trial and a collection of historic irises donated by HIPS members.

For the last 20 years, Dr. Norlan Henderson has been the driving force

and principal care giver of the Powell Gardens collections. This fall Dr. Henderson will be presented with the Region 18 Distinguished Service Award for a lifetime devoted to research and sharing his knowledge of iris over the years with his students and visitors at Powell. Our convention is dedicated to Norlan to honor his years of service and devotion.

Overland Park Arboretum located in southern Johnson County is a young botanical garden owned by the City of Overland Park but maintained by a small paid staff and a multitude of volunteers who devote thousands of hours toward making OPA a place they are proud of. About 85 percent of the property is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of natural ecosystems. You will be able to take a stroll past several water features, herb and rose gardens and a woodland area. Their Monet garden sprinkled with iris is a favorite spot for visitors.

By the time our convention is held, the Arboretum will have broken ground on the next phase of their master plan, the new Cohen Iris Garden. Funds earmarked for this project are at a whopping \$100,000. What a perfect opportunity for hybridizers to have some of their guest plants become part of the initial plantings for this new garden!

The 342 acre K-State Research & Extension Center provides research-based information to county agents and master gardeners who deliver the information at the local level. The K-State Center is the principle location for the Prairie Star annual flower, the Prairie Bloom perennial flower, and All-America Selections bedding plant field research trials. Trials of daylilies and iris are currently under way. Our convention plantings are a welcome addition to the trials. Hybridizers are invited to leave their guest plants at the Center to be included in the 5-year trial. The irises are planted in single rows on 3' centers providing ample room for easy evaluation.

There will be lots of interesting things to see at the garden of Jim Waddick and Jim Murrain. Their one-acre garden is a very mixed collection from the purple flowered Robinias in the front yard to a few hundred hellebores along a wooded slope in back. A couple hundred herbaceous and tree peonies will have some bloom during the convention along with their collection of Arilbred irises. The guest irises are divided between the front long border of bearded iris and a row of beardless guests in the back. Species iris are scattered in mixed areas throughout and you are invited to stroll through their bamboo grove.

Scott and Debbie Hughes share a passion for plants at their home set on 22 acres south of Kansas City. Every weekend feels like they are away at camp as they slowly transform their former pasture land into a three season garden retreat from the city. The guest beds wrap around the sides and back of their house while the beds in front give them ample space to experiment with companion plantings. This is also the site of the

beardless iris master planting which they have thoroughly enjoyed.

This past winter and spring were challenging for the irises in many parts of the area but this summer has been relatively moderate. Plants are pushing off old leaves giving way to newly emerging increases with the potential promise of a beautiful spring next year.

Following are some of the highlights from this spring's bloom season which started off, appropriately enough, with 'Celestial Explosion' (Tasco '04) followed by 'On The Town' (S. Markham '04) with its gracefully ruffled yellow standards over red wine colored falls..

Outstanding performances of IBs at Powell Gardens were Marky Smith's 'Dragonmaster' ('04) and 'Calligrapher' ('04). Her BB seedling #01-28H was superb as well with 3 bloom stalks of blossoms in a vibrant yellow with maroon band on the falls. The ruffled yellow edge of the falls brought a can-can dancer's skirt to mind. Baumunk's Arilbred introductions, 'Rivers of Babylon' ('04) and Hammurabi ('04), drew the attention of visitors as well as Annand's seedling BA93-18A. For many, it was their first opportunity to see an Arilbred in bloom.

MTBs performed well this spring. 'Return To Me' (J & V Craig '08), 'Red Trooper' (K. Fisher '07) and 'Lighter Moments' (K. Fisher '06) put on a good show. Ginny Spoon's seedling # 2003-G17A sought attention with its 8 buds in a colorful combination of gold standards and mauve falls with a gold edge.

The tall bearded irises were put to the test this year as storm after storm came through as they were trying to show off. Bud count varied from two all the way to an impressive 12 buds on Hugh Stout's 2007 introduction 'Polestar'. Bob Skaggs seedling #0207B took off as soon as it was planted turning into a nice clump by spring with a bud count of 10 white ruffled blooms with yellow beards changing to white at the tip.

We are really excited about all of the wonderful seedling plants in this year's convention. Jim Begley's B-2 seedling needed no additional vitamins as it brought forth large flowers with apricot standards and deep merlot falls with tangerine beards. His 'Bellarosella' ('06), a large red-violet bicolor with tangerine beards, is an attention getter as well. Seedling 0227, by D. Kanarowski, has an impressive pattern with peach colored flowers with magenta veining becoming an almost black band leaving an 1/8" edge of peach on the falls.

John Painter's 'Valentino' ('08) will sweep you off your feet with its lightly ruffled mahogany flowers with bright gold beards. It did well in all of the gardens as did his seedling #J00-10C.

The colorful 'I Love A Parade' and 'Out Of The Dark' (Black '07) were outstanding. Tom Johnson has a string of great looking iris on the market. 'Pacific Fire' ('07) a blue self with red-orange beards, 'Prague' ('05), and 'Wild Angel' ('06) were striking. The last TB to bloom was

'Super Model' ('07) who must have wanted the stage to her self and with good reason. This beauty is a medium orchid self, HEAVILY laced with an amazing amount of substance. What a looker!

This year the Siberians and TBs bloomed in perfect step with each other throughout the entire season. 'Book of Secrets' (Shafer/Sacks '00) lead off while 'Majestic Overtures' (Aitken '06) closed out the Siberian season. In between, we were treated with a beautiful display of Dave Niswonger's I. typhifolia crosses 'Everest White' and 'Everest Blue'. These varieties easily attain heights of 34" and 36" and dance beautifully in the breeze. Our resident Siberian expert, Kevin Morley has several seedlings and one introduction in the convention. 'Mariah's Ruby' (Morley '05) a deeply saturated magenta with blue-violet veining and white signal is a beautiful plant that would be a welcome addition to any garden.

Barbara Nicodemus has named her seedling 'Calvin Helsley'. The flowers are a charming combination of pastel blues and pinks that we look forward to seeing again next spring. Guest plants from Calvin Helsley included 'Carmen Jean' ('98) and his '02 introductions 'Navy Trim' and 'Night Knight'.

You're certain to fall head over heels for 'Sylvia's Love' (S. Borglum '07) with its romantically round soft blue-white petals and 'Seneca Midnight Blues' (D. Borglum '05) with its sexy "eye shadow" effect in the signal accenting the light blue of the vertical standards and falls.

'Swans In Flight' (R. Hollingworth '06) has large white flowers. Once this plant attains its height, a breeze will surely bring a flock of swans to mind. "Laugh Out Loud" ('07) has large flowers in varying saturations of yellow. All three of Marky Smith's Siberians bloomed this year; the strongest would have to be 'Star Lion' ('06) a beautiful combination in shades of red and blue violet.

Twenty-three varieties from Marty Schafer and Jan Sacks bloomed this year in the master planting in a variety of colors and flower form. Standouts were Seedling #S00-46-1, a delicious soft pink with yellow signals and a touch of blue at the center of the style arms and #S00-47-2 which has sanded pink falls, yellow signal and rim. Named varieties that did well were 'Epic Poem' ('04 Spec) and 'June to Remember' ('06); both great looking blues, 'Gentle Lass' ('04) a soft pink and 'Plum Frolic' ('01).

The HIPS convention planting at the Lanesfield Historic School site continues to attract attention even over the summer. Companion plantings of annuals and perennials are going strong and the clear blue green foliage of the iris adds interest as well. Some of the varieties that bloomed this year were 'True Delight', 'Gay Geisha', 'Frank Adams' and 'Elizabeth Noble'.

We are certainly enjoying the guest plants while they are in our gardens and hope you will hit the trail and visit us in May 2009. We will post additional information this fall on our website, www.kciris.org. Happy Trails! 🌸

HC (High Commendation) Awards for 2008

Ruth B. Barker, AIS Awards Chair

The HC Award is restricted to non-introduced irises only. To qualify an iris may be registered and named, but must not have been introduced into commerce.

The opportunity for judges to vote for worthy seedlings that they have seen growing in a garden is part of the AIS Official Ballot. The maximum number of seedlings that the judge may enter on his/her ballot is: Tall Bearded, eight; each other classification, three.

181 individual seedlings under number or name received one or more write-in votes for the HC Award.

The four seedlings listed below garnered the minimum five (5) votes required to receive the High Commendation Award for 2008.

Type	Seedling	Originator	Region	Votes
TB	02-09 G	Stephanie Markham	1	5
TB	2003-G36A 'Selah'	Virginia Spoon	4	5
BB	2002-B25A	Bryan Spoon	4	5
MDB	MO-5-1	Jean Morris	18	5

AIS Awards 2008

****Number of votes listed first**

DYKES MEMORIAL MEDAL

(Total votes cast = 469)

66 STARWOMAN (Marky Smith)

Runners Up:

60 GOLDEN PANTHER (Richard Tasco)

46 STARRING (Joseph Ghio)

THE JOHN C. WISTER MEDAL (TB)

(Total votes cast = 1231)

57 MILLENNIUM FALCON (Brad Kasperek)

54 HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS (Roger Duncan)

47 HEARTSTRING STRUMMER (Ben Johnson)

Runners Up:

44 DEVONSHIRE CREAM (George Sutton)

43 ITALIAN ICE (A. & D. Cadd)

42 MY GINNY (Donald Spoon)

42 WINTRY SKY (Keith Keppel)

THE KNOWLTON MEDAL (BB)

(Total votes cast = 283)

76 TEAPOT TEMPEST (Lynn Markham)

Runners Up:

55 MANGO SMOOTHY (Carol Lankow,
deceased, by J. T. Aitken)

52 CLASSIC NAVY (Carol Lankow, deceased,
by J. T. Aitken)

THE HANS AND JACOB SASS MEDAL (IB)

(Total votes cast = 349)

72 MING (Marky Smith)

Runners Up:

67 DEVIL MAY CARE (Paul Black)

60 CONCERTINA (George Sutton)

THE WILLIAMSON-WHITE MEDAL (MTB)

(Total votes cast = 291)

80 MASLON (Donald Spoon)

Runners Up:

72 SOMEWHAT QUIRKY (Riley Probst)

55 YELLOW FLIRT (Kenneth Fisher)

THE COOK-DOUGLAS MEDAL (SDB)

(Total votes cast = 344)

145 CAT'S EYE (Paul Black)

Runners Up:

52 PUDDY TAT (Paul Black)

18 DENALI (Marky Smith)

THE CAPARNE-WELCH MEDAL (MDB)

(Total votes cast = 205)

58 YAK ATTACK (Brad Kasperek)

Runners Up:

48 TINGLE (Paul Black)

42 TINY TITAN (J. T. Aitken)

THE CLARENCE G. WHITE MEDAL (AR & AB)

(Total votes cast = 106)

35 BYZANTINE ART (Lowell Baumunk)

Runners Up:

26 KALIFA'S FORTUNE (Robert Annand)

23 OMAR'S BLUE MOON (Carl Boswell)

THE WILLIAM MOHR MEDAL (AB)

(Total votes cast = 69)

32 SHABAZA (George Sutton)

Runners Up:

21 SUE BEE (Susie Kammer by Tim Stanek,
selector)

10 RETURN TO AGA (Robert Annand)

THE FOUNDERS OF SIGMA MEDAL (SPEC)

(Total votes cast = 165)

90 KRILL (Jill Copeland)

Runners Up:

53 PETIT LION (Lowell Baumunk)

22 SYLVANSHINE (Clarence Mahan/Carol Warner)

THE RANDOLPH PERRY MEDAL (SPEC-X)

(Total votes cast = 150)

65 ALPHA GNU (Brad Kasperek)

Runners Up:

52 LITTLE CAILLET (Ken Durio)

33 STITCH WITCHERY (Lorena Reid)

THE SYDNEY B. MITCHELL MEDAL (CA)

(Total votes cast = 55)

13 WINE AND CHEESE (Vernon Wood)

Runners Up:

10 MENDOCINO BLUE (Robert & Janet Canning)

8 UMUNHUM (Joseph Ghio)

8 RANCHO CORRALITOS (Joseph Ghio)

**THE MARY SWORDS DEBAILLON
MEDAL (IA)**

(Total votes cast = 132)

43 GREAT WHITE HOPE (Dorman Haymon)

Runners Up:

40 JAZZ HOT (Heather Pryor)

31 NIGHT THUNDER (Richard Morgan)

THE MORGAN-WOOD MEDAL (SIB)

(Total votes cast = 287)

58 FOND KISS (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)

Runners Up:56 SALAMANDER CROSSING (Marty
Schafer/Jan Sacks)

50 SOMEBODY LOVES ME (Robert Hollingworth)

THE ERIC NIES MEDAL (SPU)

(Total votes cast = 162)

43 ELFIN SUNSHINE (B. Charles Jenkins)

Runners Up:

38 MISSOURI MOONLIGHT (O. D. Niswonger)

34 MISSOURI AUTUMN (O. D. Niswonger)

THE PAYNE MEDAL (JI)

(Total votes cast = 107)

34 RASPBERRY CANDY (Bob Bauer/John Coble)

Runners Up:

29 LITTLE BOW PINK (Don Delmez)

24 DIRIGO RED ROCKET (John White)

WALTHER CUP

(Most HM votes in any category)

145 BLUEBEARD'S GHOST (Paul Black)

Runners Up:

126 GYPSY LORD (Keith Keppel)

107 CROW'S FEET (Paul Black)

AWARD OF MERIT**TALL BEARDED**

Total votes cast = 5040

143 DECADENCE (Barry Blyth)

85 TOUR DE FRANCE (Keith Keppel)

83 OREO (Keith Keppel)

74 CELESTIAL EXPLOSION (Richard Tasco)

71 EXPOSÉ (Joseph Ghio)

71 OKAPI POPPY (Brad Kasperek)

64 ADOREGON (Keith Keppel)

52 IN LOVE AGAIN (Keith Keppel)

48 BOLD ENCOUNTER (Paul Black)

47 BRUSSELS (Thomas Johnson)

45 LOVELY SENORITA (Schreiner)

42 DEVIL DAVID (A. & D. Cadd)

42 INDIAN SUNRISE (Larry Lauer)

42 MUSICIAN (Keith Keppel)

41 MYTHOLOGY (Thomas Johnson)

40 TREASURED (Joseph Ghio)

39 AARDVARK LARK (Paul Black)

39 UNDERCURRENT (Keith Keppel)

38 CHIEF JOHN JOLLY (Tom Parkhill)

38 MYSTERIOUS WAYS (Keith Keppel)

38 PEACHES AND DREAMS (Joseph Ghio)

38 QUEEN'S CONSORT (Frederick Kerr)

37 FRIENDLY FIRE (Keith Keppel)

36 FADE TO BLACK (Schreiner)

36 TRADE SECRET (Keith Keppel)

36 VAPOR (Joseph Ghio)

Runners Up:

35 BRIDAL ICING (Thomas Johnson)

35 OZARK REBOUNDER (Barbara Nicodemus)

35 SECONDHAND ROSE (Ginny Spoon)

35 TIME ZONE (Joseph Ghio)

34 GAME PLAN (Keith Keppel)

34 ORIGINAL ART (Joseph Ghio)

BORDER BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 442)

61 EYE CANDY (Keith Keppel)

50 BE MY BABY (Paul Black)

Runners Up:

48 BORDER GUARD (Joseph Ghio)

42 PRINCESS BRIDE (George Sutton)

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 542)

45 MARIPOSA WIZARD (Richard Tasco)

43 BOLD STATEMENT (Richard Tasco)

43 SPICED PEACHES (Paul Black)

Runners Up:

41 OBLIVION (Marky Smith)

39 IN A FLASH (Paul Black)

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 428)

82 SAILOR'S DREAM (Kenneth Fisher)

60 MISSUS BEE (Charles Bunnell)

Runners Up:

48 PUG (Eugene Kalkwarf)

45 CHEESE AND WINE (Mary Louise

Dunderman, deceased, by W. Terry Varner)

45 THINK SPRING (Stephanie Markham)

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 1007)

40 ATTACK CAT (Paul Black)

39 PANTHER (Marky Smith)

38 EYE OF NEWT (Paul Black)

33 CACHE OF GOLD (George Sutton)

31 BLUEBERRY TART (Chuck Chapman)

Runners Up:

29 ENCHANTED MOCHA (Barbara & David Schmieder)

28 RIVERBUDS (William & Ada Godfrey)

MINATURE DWARF BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 246)

66 FISSION CHIPS (Keith Keppel)

43 POKEMON (George Sutton)

Runners Up:

33 HOBBIT (Lynda Miller)

32 SPIDERWEB (Donald Spoon)

ARIL & ARILBRED

(Pure aril and arilbred irises of ½ or more aril content)

(Total votes cast = 109)

29 RIVERS OF BABYLON (Lowell Baumunk)

28 MASADA'S GLORY (James Whitely)

Runners Up:

21 KING SOLOMON'S MINES (Elm Jensen)

19 FIESTA SKIRT (Howard & Irene Shockey)

ARILBRED

(Arilbred irises of ¼ but less than ½ aril content)

No vote in 2008

SPECIES

(Total votes cast = 157)

54 RASPBERRY SLURP (Rita Butler)

32 CROUCHING TIGER (Eric & Bob

Tankesley-Clarke)

Runners Up:

31 WOOLONG (James Waddick)

22 R. GISKARD (Stephen Smith)

INTER-SPECIES CROSS

(Total votes cast = 196)

46 FOR JAY (Jill Copeland)

36 SIBTOSA DUCHESS (Tomas Tamberg)

Runners Up:

34 ROY'S LINES (J. T. Aitken)

28 MAGYAR MEDLEY (Philip Edinger)

CALIFORNICAE

(Total votes cast = 88)

17 WILD SURVIVOR (William Plotner)

11 BLUE PLATE SPECIAL (Joseph Ghio)

Runners Up:

9 DRIP DROP (Joseph Ghio)

8 DOT THE EYES (Joseph Ghio)

LOUISIANA

(Total votes cast = 228)

31 RASPBERRY RILLA (Rilla Hickerson)

26 ENVIABLE (M. D. Faith)

Runners Up:

23 JAMES FAITH (M. D. Faith)

21 LONGUE VUE (Dorman Haymon)

SIBERIAN

(Total votes cast = 463)

67 HERE BE DRAGONS (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)

43 LAVENDER FAIR (Robert Hollingworth)

Runners Up:

40 EMILY ANNE (Robert Hollingworth)

32 LEMON VEIL (Bob Bauer/John Coble)

32 UNCORKED (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)

SPURIA

(Total votes cast = 167)

35 KISS OF CARAMEL (A. & D. Cadd)

27 SPEEDING STAR (A. & D. Cadd)

Runners Up:

25 HOCKA HOONA (Peter DeSantis)

22 WHITEWATER RIVER (O. D. Niswonger)

JAPANESE

(Total votes cast = 163)

25 SUE JO (Donald Delmez)

21 FRECKLED PEACOCK (Chad Harris)

Runners Up:

16 ANGEL MOUNTAIN (Bob Bauer/John Coble)

15 BEWITCHING TWILIGHT (Chad Harris)

14 OREGON MARMALADE (Lee Walker)

HONORABLE MENTION**TALL BEARDED**

(Total votes cast = 7850)

126 GYPSY LORD (Keith Keppel)

79 PARISIAN DAWN (Keith Keppel)

78 KATHY CHILTON (Frederick Kerr)

70 HIGH CHAPARRAL (Schreiner)

49 BLACKALICIOUS (Schreiner)

48 JAZZ BAND (Keith Keppel)

47 GLAMOUR PANTS (Barry Blyth)

47 WILD ANGEL (Thomas Johnson)

41 BAMBOO SHADOWS (Keith Keppel)

41 RHINELANDER (Schreiner)

40 FORTUNATE SON (Schreiner)

39 ARISTOCRACY (Keith Keppel)

39 FABULOUS ONE (Richard Nicodemus)

39 HONEYCOMB (Larry Lauer)

38 ITALIAN VELVET (Keith Keppel)

37 NAUGHTY NIGHTS (Keith Keppel)

36 ABSOLUTE TREASURE (Richard Tasco)

35 BON APPETIT (J. T. Aitken)

35 FIT FOR A KING (Schreiner)

35 PEGGY SUE (Larry Lauer)

34 AT FIRST BLUSH (Frederick Kerr)

34 PADDED SHOULDERS (Paul Black)

33 CONJURING CAT (Paul Black)

32 BUBBLING WAVES (Joseph Ghio)

32 MAGIC HAPPENS (Joseph Ghio)

31 ABBY AND ME (Tom Burseen)

31 GO FOR THE GOLD (Larry Johnson)

31 NIGHT MOVES (Larry Lauer)

31 SISTERS OF LORETTO (Robert Van Liere)

30 BAREFOOT CONTESSA (Tom Burseen)

30 YOSEMITE NIGHTS (George Sutton)

29 AMERICAN MASTER (Frederick Kerr)

29 CALIFORNIA DREAMIN (George Sutton)

29 CRANBERRY SWIRL (Schreiner)

29 DISCOVERED TREASURE (Thomas Johnson)

29 PRIME POWER (Richard Tasco)

28 ACHY BREAKY HEART (George Sutton)

28 PHOTOGENIC (Joseph Ghio)

27 CITY OF GOLD (Paul Black)

27 DRESSED TO KILL (Paul Black)

27 JEAN QUEEN (Tom Burseen)

27 ON EAGLE'S WINGS (Ted Howse)

27 SOME ENCHANTED EVENING (Bruce Filardi)

26 NEW AGE DAWNING (Gerald Richardson)

26 RESTLESS HEART (Keith Keppel)

26 VIGILANT (Joseph Ghio)

26 ZEBRA JAM (Brad Kasperek)

25 ATHENS (Thomas Johnson)

25 BELLE DE PROVENCE (Lowell Baumunk)

25 CIMARRON TRAIL (Paul Black)

25 DEARIE (Keith Keppel)

25 MARJORIE GAYER (Barbara Nicodemus)

24 CIRQUE DU SOLEIL (George Sutton)

24 DREAM TICKET (Larry Lauer)

24 KAUAI GOLD (George Sutton)

24 OTHER VOICES (Lynn Markham)

24 PEWTER AND GOLD (Bruce Filardi)

24 RETURN TO BAYBERRY (Michael Sutton)

24 SMOLDERING FIRE (Barbara Nicodemus)

23 ENTICE (Joseph Ghio)

23 FINE PORCELAIN (Paul Black)

23 FLYING DOWN TO RIO (Walter Moores)

- 23 JOYFUL SKIES (Schreiner)
- 23 KISSED BY THE SUN (Schreiner)
- 23 NEON MAMA (Lowell Baumunk)
- 23 NO DOUBT (Larry Lauer)
- 23 PEACE PRAYER (Thomas Johnson)
- 23 SEA OF LOVE (Larry Lauer)
- 23 SOLOMON'S TREASURE (Robert Van Liere)
- 23 STARDOCK (George Sutton)
- 22 BIG BAD BOB (Tom Burseen)
- 22 BLUE PERSUASION (J. T. Aitken)
- 22 CAPE PERPETUA (Schreiner)
- 22 CASUAL ELEGANCE (J. T. Aitken)
- 22 COWBOY IN BLACK (Jim Hedgecock)
- 22 EARLY GIRL (Schreiner)
- 22 FIREBIRD SUITE (Ben Johnson)
- 22 FROSTY MOONSCAPE (J. T. Aitken)
- 22 GILT TRIP (Joseph Ghio)
- 22 GRAPE HARVEST (Donald Spoon)
- 22 MARCHING BAND (Joseph Ghio)
- 22 MATERIAL GIRL (Thomas Johnson)
- 22 MIDNIGHT TREAT (Schreiner)
- 22 PARTY OF ONE (Ben Johnson)
- 22 QUAIL ALE (Brad Kasperek)
- 22 SHADOWS OF NIGHT (Richard Tasco)
- 22 SUGAR COATED (Schreiner)
- 21 BAJA BLUE (Schreiner)
- 21 BERING LAGOON (Hooker Nichols)
- 21 CAMEO KISS (John Painter)
- 21 FALCONEER (George Sutton)
- 21 HAVE A GOODUN (Tom Burseen)
- 21 MODERN WOMAN (Thomas Johnson)
- 21 SPICED LEMON (Thomas Johnson)
- 21 TAHITIAN DREAMS (James Begley)
- 21 UNCLE JIM (John Van Hook)
- 21 VOLTAIRE'S CLOAK (Barbara Nicodemus)

Runners Up:

- 20 BUSHWHACKED (Paul Black)
- 20 DRAMATIC STYLE (Paul Black)
- 20 HALLOWE'EN TREAT (Pat Otterness)
- 20 JEALOUS HALO (John Painter)
- 20 LORD OF THE NIGHT (George Sutton)
- 20 ORANGE PASSION (Schreiner)
- 19 CHRISTMAS ICE (Oscar Schick)
- 19 FOREIGNER (Thomas Johnson)
- 19 GALLERY (Thomas Johnson)
- 19 NAVAJO CODE (Vincent Christopherson)

- 19 PERFORMING ARTS (Keith Keppel)
- 19 RED MASTERPIECE (Schreiner)
- 19 SENIOR MOMENT (Gerald Richardson)
- 19 TALL COOL ONE (Schreiner)
- 19 TRUE SPIRIT (Richard Tasco)

BORDER BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 654)

- 107 CROW'S FEET (Paul Black)
- 38 DARKTOP STRUTTER (J. T. Aitken)
- 32 CHAMPAGNE BLUSH (Vincent Christopherson)
- 31 STRAWBERRY BLUSH (Vincent Christopherson)
- 30 LACED HANDKERCHIEF (A. & D. Cadd)
- 28 CRISPY CRITTER (J. T. Aitken)

Runners Up:

- 25 LOVE POWER (J. T. Aitken)
- 21 RAMBLIN' MAN (Larry Lauer)
- 21 WORKING MAN'S HERO (Larry Lauer)
- 20 OASIS ROOT BEER (Keith Chadwick)
- 18 MORNING TWILIGHT (Keith Keppel)

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 909)

- 48 NICKEL (Paul Black)
- 38 CAYENNE (Marky Smith)
- 38 FIRE IN THE SKY (Paul Black)
- 35 BONKERS (Keith Keppel)
- 32 CAT'S HAT (Donald Spoon)
- 29 DOE Z DOE (Brad Kasperek)
- 27 BARREL HOUSE BLUES (Lowell Baumunk)

Runners Up:

- 25 RAGS THE TIGER (Larry Lauer)
- 23 ABBEY (Paul Black)
- 23 DOUBLE OVERTIME (Richard Tasco)
- 23 LATINO (Keith Keppel)
- 23 SMUGGLER (Harold Stahly)
- 23 SWEET POTATO PIE (Paul Black)
- 23 TRIPOD (Michael Sutton)

MINIATURE TALL BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 749)

- 62 REDROCK PRINCESS (Jean Witt)
- 52 PETIT LOUVOIS (Clarence Mahan)

52 RAZZLEBERRY DRESSING (Stephanie Markham)

48 PRETTY JAZZY (Riley Probst)

Runners Up:

47 MAUI MANGO (J. T. Aitken)

47 PEEBEE AND JAY (Barbara /David Schmieder)

43 DEUCE (Lynda Miller)

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 2186)

145 BLUEBEARD'S GHOST (Paul Black)

66 WISH UPON A STAR (Paul Black)

63 CANADIAN KISSES (Paul Black)

45 BIG BLUE EYES (Paul Black)

44 ABSOLUTE JOY (J. T. Aitken)

39 BANDED TIGER (Barbara & David Schmieder)

37 LEOPARD PRINT (Thomas Johnson)

36 SCREAM (Thomas Johnson)

33 HUGS (Paul Black)

33 PUSSYCAT PINK (Paul Black)

27 CHEEKY KID (Barbara & David Schmieder)

27 EXPERIMENT (Paul Black)

23 MAUI SUNSET (Neal Pohlman)

23 TRUE (Thomas Johnson)

22 BETTY BOOP (George Sutton)

22 HONEY CAT (Jean Morris)

20 CUB CADET (Thomas Johnson)

20 GINGERBREAD TRIM (Paul Black)

19 FINE IDEA (Paul Black)

19 FRAIDY CAT (Jean Morris)

19 GHOST SHIP (Paul Black)

19 JELLY BELLY (George Sutton)

Runners Up:

18 BRIGHT (Paul Black)

18 INDIAN ART (Bennett Jones)

18 NAUMKEAG (John Burton II)

18 RAINDANCE RETURNS (J. T. Aitken)

17 OVERCAST (Keith Keppel)

17 TRUE GRIT (Larry Lauer)

MINATURE DWARF BEARDED

(Total votes cast = 310)

32 DOLLOP OF CREAM (Paul Black)

29 ACUTE COOT (Brad Kasperek)

22 TRIMMED VELVET (Donald Spoon)

Runners Up:

20 YOUNGLING (Marky Smith)

19 OPAL BLUSH (A. & D. Willott)

19 STRIPLING (Marky Smith)

ARIL & ARILBRED

(Pure aril and arilbred irises of ½ or more aril content)

(Total votes cast = 129)

29 NOBLE WARRIOR (Richard Tasco)

26 KALIFA'S JOY (Robert Annand)

Runners Up:

16 PERSIAN QUEEN (Robert Annand)

13 PENNINAH'S PROVOCATION (Pete McGrath)

ARILBRED

(Arilbred irises of ¼ but less than ½ aril content)

(Total votes cast = 104)

45 SUSPECT (Thomas Johnson)

11 BELOVED INFIDEL (A. & D. Willott)

Runners Up:

9 RAIN MAIDEN (Vernon & Dana Brown)

8 MOHR OR LESS (Christy Ann Hensler)

SPECIES

(Total votes cast = 146)

22 EPIC POEM (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)

17 TOURIST (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)

Runners Up:

15 RUTH WILDER (Walter Hoover by Randell Bowen)

14 CAITLIN'S SMILE (James Waddick by Kevin Morley)

14 NATIVE WINE (Elaine Hulbert)

INTER-SPECIES CROSS

(Total votes cast = 172)

26 KINSHIKOU (Hiroshi Shimizu by Carol Warner)

17 PLUM DUCK (Brad Kasperek)

12 UNION MADE (Bob Bauer/John Coble)

Runners Up:

- 11 PACIFIC WILDWOOD (Lorena Reid)
- 10 TSUKUYONO (Hiroshi Shimizu by Carol Warner)

CALIFORNIAE

(Total votes cast = 104)

- 12 LINES THAT RHYME (Joseph Ghio)
- 6 EYE CATCHING (Joseph Ghio)
- 6 LETTER PERFECT (Lois Belardi)
- 5 BUBBLE WRAP (Joseph Ghio)
- 5 HIDDEN ASSET (Duane Meek)
- 5 NEW BLOOD (Joseph Ghio)

Runners Up:

- 4 BATTLE LINE (Joseph Ghio)
- 4 CHALK HILL ROAD (L. W. Beeman, deceased, by A. & D. Cadd)
- 4 SEEING EYE (Joseph Ghio)
- 4 SUNOL GRADE (Joseph Ghio)
- 4 VIOLET VIXEN (Vernon Wood)

LOUISIANA

(Total votes cast = 455)

- 21 GINNY'S CHOICE (Wayland Rudkin)
- 20 MAISON DE VILLE (Mary Dunn, deceased, by Joseph Ghio)
- 18 RENÉE FLEMING (Heather Pryor)
- 17 ZYDECO (Patrick O'Connor)
- 16 ECHO'S RED IMP (M. D. Faith)
- 16 RAE RAE (M. D. Faith)
- 15 LAKE HAMANA (Bernard Pryor)
- 15 PARK AVENUE PRINCESS (Heather Pryor)

Runners Up:

- 14 LULU E (M. D. Faith)
- 12 FREDERICK DOUGLASS (Dorman Haymon)
- 12 FRIENDS' SONG (Dorman Haymon)

SIBERIAN

(Total votes cast = 824)

- 68 SO VAN GOGH (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)
- 37 MY FIRST KISS (Dean Cole)
- 32 PINK PEPPER (Bob Bauer/John Coble)
- 30 FRILLY VANILLY (Robert Hollingworth)
- 25 FOREVER REMEMBERED (Anna Mae Miller)

- 25 RAINDROP MELODY (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)

- 24 DEAR CURRIER (Jeff Dunlop)
- 24 GENTLE LASS (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)
- 24 SUN COMES UP (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)

Runners Up:

- 23 CURRIER (Robert Hollingworth)
- 23 NOT QUITE WHITE (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)
- 23 SUNFISHER (Marty Schafer/Jan Sacks)

SPURIA

(Total votes cast = 206)

- 19 SOLAR FUSION (Lee Walker)
- 15 GOLDEN DUCAT (A. & D. Cadd)
- 14 SAINT PATRICK'S GOLD (A. & D. Cadd)
- 14 STAR RIDER (A. & D. Cadd)

Runners Up:

- 13 CHOCOLATE DREAMS (A. & D. Cadd)
- 12 CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH (A. & D. Cadd)

JAPANESE

(Total votes cast = 238)

- 23 BANJO BLUES (Bob Bauer/John Coble)
- 19 DIRIGO MAIDEN'S BLUSH (John White)
- 18 COHO (Chad Harris)
- 17 SECOND WAVE (J. T. Aitken)
- 15 RAINBOW DARTER (Jill Copeland)

Runners Up:

- 14 CRAOLA KISS (Lee Walker)
- 12 WISPY CLOUDS (Bob Bauer/John Coble)
- 12 FIRST STRIKE CRAOLA (Lee Walker)



AIS Calendar:

CONVENTIONS

2009: May 11-16

Kansas City, MO
 Chair: Debora Hughes
 3395 Utah Road
 Wellsville, KS 66092
 (785) 883-4737
 dhughes936@myvine.com

Headquarters:

Doubletree Hotel Overland Park
 10100 College Boulevard
 Overland Park, KS 66210
 (913) 451-6100

2010: May 31-June 5

Madison, WI
 Chair: John Baker
 4601 CTH TT
 Sun Prairie, WI 53590
 (608) 825-7423
 johnwbaker1@verizon.net

Headquarters:

Madison Marriott West Hotel
 1313 John Q. Hammons Drive
 Middleton, WI 53562
 (608) 831-2000

2011: May 30-June 4

Victoria, BC CANADA
 Chair: Ted E. Baker
 185 Furness Rd.
 Salt Spring Island, BC
 CANADA, V8K 1Z7
 (250)653-4430
 tedebaker@shaw.ca

2012: Apr 16-21

Ontario, CA
 Co-Chairs:
 Kathy Chilton

14333 S. Stagecoach Rd.
 Tucson, AZ 85736
 (520) 822-1497
 Ranchiris@aol.com

Jill Bonino
 3110 Kirkham Drice
 Glendale, CA 91206
 (818) 790-3256
 aistreas@earthlink.net

FALL BOARD MEETINGS

2008: Oct 31 - Nov 2

Las Vegas, NV
 Chair: Mary lee Fortner
 3337 Ascona Street
 Lass Vegas, NV 89129
 (702) 228-0827
 mybasket@cox.net

2009: Nov 6 - 8

Tulsa, OK
 Chair: Paul W. Gossett
 129 East 33rd Place
 Tulsa, OK 74105-2542
 (918) 742-1204
 pwgossett@juno.com

2010:

Portland, OR
 Chair: Terry Aitken
 608 NW 119th Street
 Vancouver, WA 98685-3802
 (360) 573-4472
 terry@flowerfantasy.net

Design Corner

By Carolyn Hawkins, Georgia

This spring I had the good fortune to have a Louisiana, 'Sweet Caprice', blooming in abundance and created the following article for the *AIS Bulletin*. It will be a lesson in pictures and I hope these are clear enough for you to see the results when using different components with an arrangement.

Picture No. 1

The arrangement of the iris and foliage in a needlepoint holder. This is the design that I placed with each of the following components.



Picture No. 2

Shows all of the components that can be used in a flower design. They are grouped together but from left to right include a wood branch mounted on a black base, a pipe mounted on a base with slender side arms, and immediately behind it is another metal structure with a silvery tube and a triangular form welded on. Next is a wood zigzag shape and hanging on the background



behind is a metal form with solid (holes in the middle) triangles attached in a haphazard row. The last items are gourds with curled stems and the copper tubing hanging out of the top a wooden pole (again mounted on a base).

Picture No. 3

The arrangement with the metal structure with the silvery tube and triangular form. The tube is not visible. This structure was not placed in front as it dominated the design and took away from the flowers. Therefore in the back it adds some interest and is not obtrusive.



Picture No. 4

The arrangement placed on the base with the wooden branch. This design would have been improved with an additional piece of wood at the base.



Picture No. 5

Used the zigzag wooden structure and placed in the back. Placing this component so only part of it shows adds to the design.

**Picture No. 6**

Has the metal pole with the slender side arms and the metal form with the triangles. The triangles were hung on one of the arms and become a part of the design.





Picture No. 7

Uses the gourds to add some creativity to the design. Items with curves like this have to be used carefully as they can cause a rhythm fault by stopping the eye.



Picture No. 8

Has the tried and true copper tubing incorporated in the design.

Now that you have viewed all of them which one do you like and which one has too much or too little of a good thing? The goal of this article is to get you to think about using such components, maybe more successfully than I have, and to look for items to use in future flower shows or in your home to add some pizzazz! 🌀

IN THE HEART OF TEXAS BETWEEN SAN ANTONIO AND AUSTIN

THE SAN MARCOS IRIS GARDEN



Designed and planted by Lee and Sandy Schroeder, the San Marcos Iris Garden is located between the San Marcos Tourist Information Center and the spring fed San Marcos River. The garden displays eight unique varieties of iris, particularly Tall Bearded Iris in colors of brilliant orange, violet, lavender and yellow blooms as well as bi-color variations of standards and falls. Prime blooming traditionally occurs in early March through mid-April while blooms can be seen mid-January through the end of April.

SAN MARCOS 
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Photo: Norris

Knowlton Medal

'Teapot Tempest'
(Markham '99, BB)



AIS 2008 Award Winners

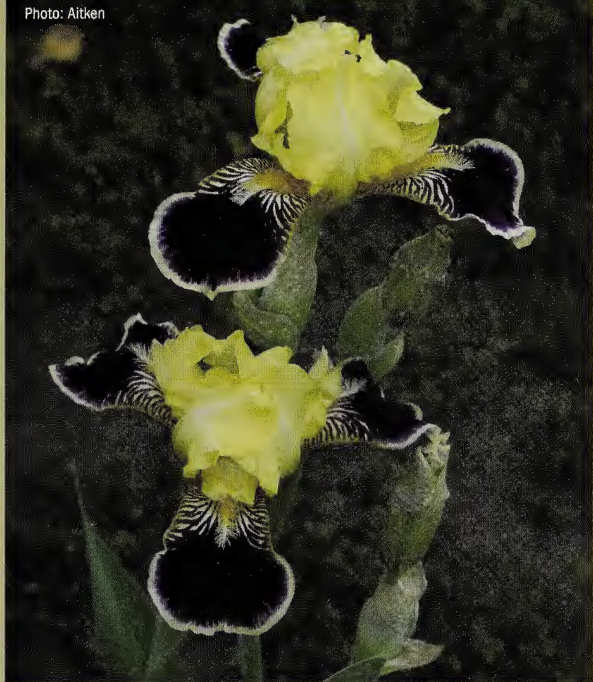
Photo: S. Markham

Hans and Jacob Sass Medal

'Ming'
(Smith '98, IB)



Photo: Aitken



Williamson-White Medal

'Maslon' (Spoon '02, MTB)

Cook- Douglas Medal

'Cat's Eye'
(Black '02, SDB)

Photo: Aitken



Caparne- Welch Medal

'Yak Attack'
(Kasperek '98, MDB)



Photo: B. Kasperek

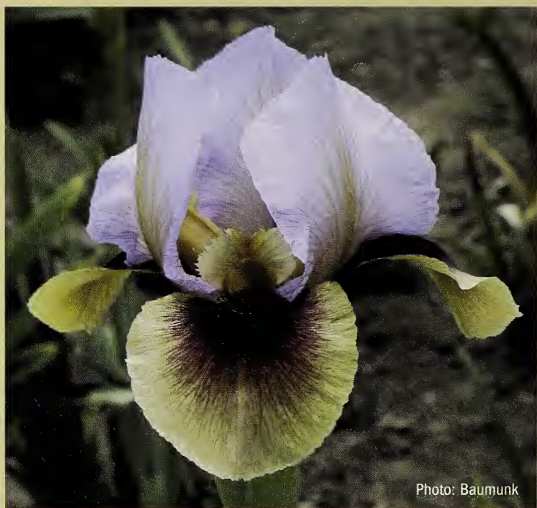


Photo: Baumunk

Clarence G. White Medal

'Byzantine Art' (Baumunk '01)



William Mohr Medal

'Shabaza' (G. Sutton '01, AB)



Founders of SIGNA Medal

'Krill'
(Copeland '00, SPEC)

Photo: J. Coble



Photo: Baumunk

Randolph Perry Medal

'Alpha Gnu' (Kasperek '99, SPEC-X)



Photo: K. Walker

Sydney B. Mitchell Medal

'Wine & Cheese' (Wood '01, CA)



Photo: Schafer/Sacks

Morgan-Wood Medal

'Fond Kiss' (Schafer/Sacks '99, SIB)



Photo: R. Treadway

Debaillon Medal

'Great White Hope' (Haymon '00, LA)



Photo: T. Hudson

Eric Nies Medal

'Elfin Sunshine' (Jenkins '98, SPU)

Walther Cup Winner

'Bluebeard's Ghost' (Black '06)



Photo: Aitken



Photo: J. Coble

Payne Medal

'Raspberry Candy' (Bauer/Coble '99, II)



Convention Attendees



Fascinated with Sisyrinchium

(See article, page 70) All photos: Edmund & Rita Heaton

This Page: Above, *Olsynium junceum*; Below, *Sisyrinchium palmifolium*

Next Page: Top, *Sisyrinchium* 'Quaint & Queer'; Middle, *Sisyrinchium* 'E K Balls';
Bottom, *Sisyrinchium striatum*







Above: *Sisyrrinchium bellum*

Right: *Sisyrrinchium* 'Devon Skies'

Below: *Sisyrrinchium idahoense*
'Rocky Point'





Fascinated with Sisyrinchiums

Above: *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*

Below: *Sisyrinchium macounii*





Fascinated with Sisyrinchiums

Top: *Sisyrinchium macrocarpum*

Left: *Sisyrinchium convolutum*

Above: *Sisyrinchium graminifolium*



*Hoyt-Jameson Garden 2008
Savannah, MO*

(See Culture Corner, Pg. 65)

Photos: Judy Kiesling





Commercial Iris Production

(See article, page 86)

Photos: Kelly Norris

Above: The iris washing machine used at Rainbow Iris Farm.

Below: Irises after washing.





The 2008 National Convention From a Youth's View

(See article, page 75)

Gabe Lockhart receiving the
2008 Clarke Cosgrove Award from
President E. Roy Epperson.

Photos: Alex Stanton





Storybook Irises

(See article, page 89)

All photos: Jim Morris

Top Left: St. Louis City Academy fourth grade students pose with their winning entries at the May 8 show held at their school. 'Immortality' was Best Youth Specimen.

Bottom Left: Alice Goodman Memorial Garden at MOBOT where the "Storybook Irises" will be located.

Above: MOBOT 2008 iris bloom, 'Mango Madness' (Sturm 06) in foreground.



Left: 'Alpine Glow'

Below: A clump of
assorted Kleinsorge Irises

Preserving Kleinsorge Irises

(See article, page 77)

All photos: Mike Unger





Left: 'Calcutta'

Below: 'Black and Gold'





Above: 'El Paso'

Right: 'Harvest Splendor'

Below: 'Cascade Splendor'





Above: 'Gold Beater'

Right: 'Gypsy'

Below: 'Daybreak'



*Preserving
Kleinsorge
Irises*



Above: 'Maroon Damask'

Right: 'Mexico'



Preserving Kleinsorge Irises



Top: 'Portland'

Above: 'Pretty Quadroon'

Left: 'Prospector'



Left: 'Rebellion'

Below: 'Sunset Blaze'

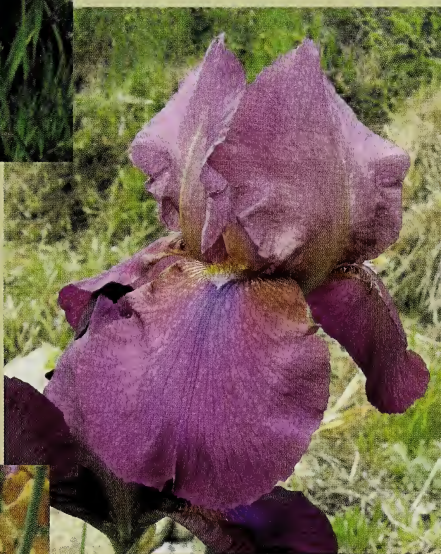




Above: 'Thotmes III'

Right: 'Rose Amethyst'

Below: 'Klamath'



*Preserving
Kleinsorge
Irises*



'Treasure Island'

It seems throughout the history of growing irises an idea has arisen that is the source of great interest and conflict. Many believe that irises are poor herbaceous perennials that combine poorly with other plants in the open garden and have thus relegated them to soldierly monocultures. While not wishing to infringe on your right to garden in the way you please, we've compiled this segment to give you ideas, insights, and suggestions on how to use irises with other garden plants, courtesy of fellow irisarians from around the country.

The Full Garden

Anita Moran, Maryland

As an amateur gardener, I find that irises are not the delicate plants some believe them to be. Oh sure, we have all had those problem children that just will not grow where we live, but overall the iris is a forgiving and wonderful perennial that can handle a lot of abuse and still bloom wonderfully. I have several beds since my husband refuses to have irises grown in rows. This means that our beds must have more than just iris in them. I will start with the seedling beds. My seedlings do not get full sun until they bloom for the first time. They are in dappled shade for 70 percent of the day, 10 percent direct sun and full shade the rest of the time. In that bed are mums (*Chrysanthemum*), dogwood trees (*Cornus pumila*), butterfly bushes (*Buddleia davidii*), daylilies (*Heemerocallis*), hosta, forsythia (*Forsythia viridissima*), azalea and wisteria (*Wisteria venusta*).

The reselect bed has daylilies, hosta, a large American holly tree, rhododendron, viburnum (*Viburnum x burkwoodii*), and a rose-of-sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*) that I have trimmed into a tree. All of these plants grow without too much need for my interference other than trimming and pruning. The dwarf dogwood is still young enough that it requires little care and does not interfere with the iris at all. The azaleas I only need to trim once every two years and then of course the daylilies and irises require thinning as needed.

The remaining beds have plants that edge areas such as *Dianthus*. Hens-and-chicks are great for a center piece. I also have early spring bulbs through out my gardens and a pond that includes *Iris versicolor*, one Japanese iris that remains living, water lilies and unfortunately pennywort which I am still trying to get rid of. The pond is surrounded by Siberians, Japanese holly, a laceleaf red maple, azaleas, various bulbs, and a bird's nest spruce (*Picea abies* 'Nidiformis'). Growing wherever they want are Johnny jump-ups (*Viola cornuta*) and columbine which show up everywhere and

don't seem to bother the irises. Violets seem to be the most unwanted plant in my gardens. They are wild and do not seem to bother the irises except when they form large clumps and become difficult to get rid of completely.

As long as irises get their fair share of air flow there seems to be little they cannot be grown with as long as you do not overdo and every plant has their own space.

Spring versus Summer Borders

Bob Pries, North Carolina

My impression of current garden trends is that summer perennial borders are being emphasized over spring borders. I believe this is because so many new summer flowering plants have emerged on the market and, just maybe, we have to constantly keep changing new garden trends. In this new fad many old perennial favorites such as tall bearded iris, peonies, and oriental poppies that were the backbone of our grandparent's spring borders have now fallen out of favor. But the perennial border of high spring is still one of the most impressive features of any garden.

Today's gardener wants something that has constantly good foliage, is continually in bloom and requires no maintenance. Of course the only thing that fits that bill is plastic flowers, heaven forbid! We always want what we don't have, which is why I believe spring borders will make a comeback.

The summer border blooms during the hottest time of year, which means flowers often look terrible when there is no rain. It is an uncomfortable time to work in and enjoy the garden. Spring on the other hand is cool, and a constantly building crescendo of bloom, and we revel in the warm days.

An advantage of the spring border is the exuberance of flowers that burst upon us. Summer borders require work in early, often rainy, spring weather to prepare for the season. Spring borders are developed more in late summer and fall when the weather is usually dryer and temperatures have begun to moderate. August and September are great times to plant iris, peonies and poppies. Of course like most gardeners I want it all so I will always keep a few summer daylilies but not at the expense of any spring-blooming iris.

The Beauty of Reseeding Annuals

Sherryl Fitzpatrick, Kansas

There are several plants that grow well with bearded irises. They do need to be plants that like dryer conditions. Anything that likes lots of water probably will not work. In the same flower bed I grow sections of

iris and sections of daylilies. Then in between the iris and daylilies several self-seeding annuals grow to give color when the irises are not in bloom. These include celosia, cleome, portulaca (just keep it from growing over the rhizome), larkspur, purpletop verbena (*Verbena bonariensis*) and vinca (*Catharanthus roseus*). You just have to be prepared to pull some out when they come in thickly. I usually try to remove them just as they finish blooming before there is a lot of seed set, but after they have dispersed a few seeds. Pentas and annual dahlias also work well with the iris and they don't self seed. I also place bulbs such as daffodils and alliums for spring and glads for summer color in between them. With these combinations I have almost continuous color in my flower beds from spring through fall.

A Plant Collector Down Under

Stephanie Boot, New Zealand

If you are a "plant person" as I am, all sorts of plants interest me, and it has been a challenge to place irises in my garden with other plants. My basic idea is to have plants with interesting foliage, and/or different types of smaller flowers to enhance the irises when they bloom, and for the iris foliage to enhance other plants when they bloom or to contrast in color and texture.

The main garden areas are mixed borders of shrubs and perennials, with irises in groups amongst them. Viburnums, michelias and hydrangeas are among the shrubs I like best, and I think Siberian irises and heritage roses complement each other well. Along with those I have planted Dianthus, Verbena, hardy geraniums, bulbs such as *Gladiolus tristis* and *G. nanus* hybrids, some *Narcissus* varieties, and *Euphorbia* species. There are many *Euphorbia* varieties, and one I particularly like is *E. amygdaloides purpurea*, which grows to about two feet tall with reddish-tinted foliage and lime green flower heads; very good with the dark reddish-black bearded irises.

The salvias are another of my favourites, and with around 700 species from very small shrubby varieties to biennials, clump-forming perennials both large and small, and tall-growing shrubs, there are plenty to choose from. *Salvia argentea*, with its large, silver, furry leaves is the perfect foil for bearded irises, enjoying the same conditions. It is a biennial, so in its second year sends up two foot stems of small white flowers to complement the blooms of bearded irises. *Salvia discolor* is another asset, a shrub growing to about three feet has grayish leaves, with white tomentum beneath, and sprays of black flowers sheathed in lime-green bracts. The huge silver leaves

of the cardoon, *Cynara cardunculus*, make a wonderful background. Many varieties of lavender also serve the same purpose.

Evansia irises excel in woodland conditions where there is moisture and dappled shade without too much exposure to wind. They are happy with other large-leaved plants for contrast, such as hostas, ligularias, and rodgersias. When in bloom with the apricot-orange flowers of something like *Clivia* the combination is also stunning. Louisiana irises also grow among these plants, and at the front of these areas Pacific Coast Native irises are happy. In amongst all these, in places where there are suitable conditions (I hope) are *I. unguicularis*, a few spurias, and quite a lot of species, as well as all the other bulbs and perennials I like to try and grow. This garden is a work in progress and always will be, I think.

Butterflies and Irises

Judy Eckhoff, Kansas

Although irises are my favorite flower and I grow over a thousand varieties of them, I can't imagine my garden without something blooming it in all the time. Spring bulbs and wild violets are companions to the very earliest of the iris; fall mums, asters, marigolds and zinnias bloom with the reblooming iris. In between those seasons there is always something colorful to see, touch or smell.

Annuals such as zinnias, marigolds, salvias, vinca (*Catharanthus roseus*) and rose moss are very easy to combine with irises as you can simply pull out those you don't want or plants that end up crowding your iris. They provide plenty of bright color with very little care. Butterflies and hummingbirds are everywhere enjoying the garden also.

I'm also finding many of the perennials can also fill in spots that irises don't prefer like those with a little too much shade or that are too wet for their liking. Hostas are easy and provide color in shady areas. Coreopsis comes in many colors now and their fine fern-like foliage blend in easily with irises. Coneflowers, butterfly weed and cannas can fill in the background with height and yet not be demanding.

Other flowers I have mixed in are daylilies, sunflowers, balloon flowers, pentas, hardy hibiscus, lantana, snapdragons, and begonias. Growing other plants among the irises does make it a little more difficult when it comes to digging or dividing clumps and also when it comes to controlling weeds, but as you can tell, something is always blooming in my garden. It's very relaxing just to sit among the butterflies and enjoy my morning coffee.

Irises as Companion Plants

Rita Gormley, Iowa

After many years of having a huge iris garden planted in rows of specimen plants (1,100 varieties) in rural Missouri, we moved to Dubuque, Iowa last year and started our new gardens from scratch in this wonderfully rich dirt.

One of our aims in designing and planting new garden beds was to cut back on the number of plants as well as the time involved in caring for them. We do have several small beds here with just irises for the "new median kids" and plants we are evaluating for others. Most importantly, however, we have incorporated irises in almost every other planting on this acre of park-like yard.

We have over a dozen mature nut trees that provide summer shade but leaf out in the late spring. We planted our very favorite SDBs & MDBs, especially the rebloomers, at the base of these large trees along with *reticulatas*, hostas, daffodils and miniature daylilies last fall and had a lovely show this spring. When the weather got warm, we also planted lots of caladium with them and have enjoyed color since the first week in April. The early irises enjoyed the sun before the trees leafed out but, although they have increased nicely, we did not get any rebloom on our SDBs probably from lack of direct sun. The miniature daylilies are still blooming in late August and the showy red, white and green caladiums will continue until frost.

Because the Zone 4b-5a climate will allow many perennials to thrive that languished in the Missouri heat and clay, I've gone "hog-wild" acquiring new (to me) varieties in addition to replacing ones that we left in Missouri. One of the largest new beds (30 x 3) is along the asphalt driveway and irises are truly just companion plants to go with two lovely, silver-grey, lacy wormwood (*Artemisia arborescens*), tricolor sage (*Salvia officinalis*), many brightly colored varieties of yarrow, Japanese anemone, dwarf sea thrift, blackberry lily (*Belamcanda chinensis*), Canterbury bells (*Campanula calycanthema*), many colors of dianthus, Shasta daisies mixed with showy annuals like dwarf snapdragons, variegated-foilage geraniums, African daisies and globe amaranth (*Gomphrena*). The irises in this bed are mostly reblooming bearded (both TB and medians) that will thrive in the moist soil from the driveway drainoff and varieties like 'Gull's Wing', a Siberian, and 'Butterfly Magic', a *Pardancanda x norrisii* selection.

Needless to say, our original plans for fewer beds is a pipedream as all the new beds are being expanded to hold an ever-growing selection of companions as well as our new list of "can't live without" irises! The roto-tiller is getting a workout! ♪

The Other Irids, Part II

Fascinated with *Sisyrinchiums*

By Edmund and Rita Heaton, United Kingdom

“They’re weeds!” exclaimed an American lady visiting our stand in the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG) Plant Heritage Marquee at the Hampton Court Flower Show a few years ago. Edmund enjoys a challenge and this was an opportunity not to be missed. We had a wonderful selection of *sisyrinchiums* on display and showed her that they come in all shapes, sizes and colours and not just the blue and yellow she was used to. Edmund further explained that some of the American species such as *S. dichotomum* are under threat. By the time the lady left our stand, Edmund had convinced her that they were not weeds, but rather an incredibly diverse group of garden-worthy plants.

To be asked to write an article for the American Iris Society about an Americas genus is another challenge. For English people to write about American wild flowers seems incongruous, but if you read on you will learn why we are so fascinated with your blue-eyed and yellow-eyed grasses.

About 25 years ago we started collecting *sisyrinchiums*, but as the collection grew so did our confusion as many of the plants looked identical or at least very similar and yet they had different names. So began our quest! When we had acquired 37 different named *Sisyrinchium*, we contacted the Royal Horticultural Society to seek advice about their identification and they in turn suggested we contacted the NCCPG. When we wrote we were advised that there was no National Plant Collection of *Sisyrinchium* and asked if we would like to apply for it.

That was 20 years ago and now our collection consists of over 250 different species and cultivars including related genera *Olsynium* and *Solenomelus*. We also hold further National Plant Collections of the *Tigridieae* Tribe (consisting of 26 genera); *Neomarica*; *Trimezia* and *Pseudotrimezia*; *Habranthus* and *Zephyranthes*.

Although you will be familiar with some of the North American native species such as *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*, *S. bellum* and *S. californicum*, there are many more which are not known in cultivation. Some authorities estimate that the number of species worldwide is as low as 100 and that many of the North American species identified

and named by E. P. Bicknell (in the late 1800s and early 1900s) should be reclassified under the general name of *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*. However, we consider Bicknell was correct as not only are many of the North American species different in appearance, but also in their growing habits, for instance *Sisyrinchium solstitiale* grows in pure sand. We consider there are at least 250 species worldwide and probably many more yet to be discovered in South America, particularly in Peru and Bolivia.

The genus *Sisyrinchium* has the greatest longitudinal range of any member of the *Iridaceae* family stretching as far as Greenland in the north to the island of Tierra del Fuego at the very tip of South America. Besides being found in every country in the Americas, species also grow in Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Hawaii, Fiji and even Eire. It is thought that sisyrinchiums originated in South America and gradually extended northwards. This is supported by the fact that the South American species are far more varied in appearance, colour forms and markings than those of Mexico and North America. Interestingly, the vast majority of Mexican species are yellow, while those in the USA are blue or violet.

Although most gardeners associate sisyrinchiums as rock garden plants, they vary in height from one inch to over five feet tall, the latter being aptly named *S. palmifolium* ssp. *giganteum*. As the USA has so many climate zones, this will affect the kind of plants that gardeners are able to grow. We have therefore decided to describe some of our favourite sisyrinchiums and hope that you will at least try growing some of them.

Species Profiled

Sisyrinchium convolutum (Nocca) is a remarkable species from Mexico as well as Peru and Bolivia. It has golden yellow flowers similar to *S. californicum* but its distinguishing feature is the convoluted leaf structure all the way up the stem, giving a herring-bone appearance. This species should not be confused with *Sisyrinchium convolutum* (Klatt) that is part of the Californicum Group.

Sisyrinchium macrocarpum is a spectacular species from Argentina and Bolivia. It has large golden-yellow flowers with distinctive brown markings around the eye and glaucous blue-green leaves. Growing to one foot in height, it has extremely long roots for the size of the plant and care should be taken if it is grown in pots to allow for its long root run. It is easy to grow from seed; however, it is sometimes listed incorrectly as *Sisyrinchium macrocarpon* which is a yellow-flowered native of Arizona that may be a synonym of *S. ensigerum*.

Sisyrinchium palmifolium is the most spectacular species having

distinctive flower heads that has earned it the nickname of 'Bird-of-paradise sisyrinchium' and regularly produces over 100 individual flowers on a single stem. The species varies in height from 10 inches to three feet. It is native to Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay and is the hardiest species we grow as it has survived frost, snow and even a flood. Incredibly it is also drought resistant and therefore is a must for anyone who wants a survivor and to make their friends and neighbours jealous.

Sisyrinchium striatum was introduced into the UK in 1788. It has tall spikes of creamy-yellow flowers all up the stem and is a common sight in the flower borders of English stately homes. It is equally at home in gravel gardens or growing beside garden ponds. It freely self-seeds which is a bonus as the older plants turn black after flowering. The variegated cultivar, *S. striatum* 'Aunt May', was found in a Devon garden and first shown to the RHS in 1965. Although the variegated leaves are attractive, this form is more temperamental to grow successfully than the species and needs to be propagated by division as it only produces sterile seeds.

But let's not miss your own native North American weeds! Remember, the old saying – "a weed is only a plant growing in the wrong place..."

Sisyrinchium angustifolium is native to both the USA and Canada and varies in height from 4 to 22 inches. This is a variable species, ranging in colour from pale blue to violet. There is also a white form, *S. angustifolium album*, that is often sold under the more commercial names of *S.* 'Pole Star'; *S.* 'North Star' and *S.* 'Mrs Spivey' – out of interest who was Mrs. Spivey? Amazingly *S. angustifolium* has become naturalised around lakes in western Ireland and is now recognised as a distinct endemic native of Eire – *S. hibernicum*.

Sisyrinchium bellum has intense violet-purple recurving petals and is a beautiful rock garden plant. We believe there are also lavender and white forms, but have not been able to find them so far.

Sisyrinchium californicum is such a versatile garden plant and has golden-yellow flowers. It grows seemingly in any type of soil and both in full sun and shade, flowering from March to late November. In fact we saw it being used in a water feature at the Hampton Court Flower Show. Although it is known for its infamous free seeding (sometimes referred to as 'the yellow peril'), it is easy to control by removing any unwanted fruits before the seeds are distributed. *Sisyrinchium brachypus*, *S. flavidum* and *S. convolutum* (Klatt) all belong to the Californicum Group.

Sisyrinchium idahoense is one of the taller species growing to over 1

foot in height. It has deep purple-violet flowers that are pale lavender on the reverse, although varying shades of purple occur. *Sisyrinchium idahoense* var. *macounii* is about 6 inches in height, but has much larger, rounded flowers. This variety has produced many different forms and cultivars that are available here in the UK and surely available in the USA. The cultivars are sterile and therefore very well-behaved. Look out for *S.* 'Rocky Point', a dwarf cultivar which was introduced to the UK from a Californian nursery in 1994 and, a particular favourite of ours, *S.* 'Iceberg' with its incredibly large white flowers with pale blue veining.

And now for a few of our favourite hybrids

Number one is *Sisyrinchium* 'Devon Skies' which is without a doubt stunning. It has the same growth habit of *S. idahoense* and has the most intense blue flowers that are even more accentuated by the deeper colored veining around the yellow eye. Reaching approximately six inches in height, it is a compact plant that is easily propagated by division. This hybrid occurred in our garden. We are not certain of its parentage, but it arose in the vicinity of *S. idahoense* var. *macounii* and *S. angustifolium*. We gave a few plants to a local nurseryman in 1993 who subsequently commercialized it. This hybrid is now available in the USA and even as far afield as Australia. We are extremely proud of our introduction particularly as it is considered by others as the best blue hybrid available, but don't just take our word for it – check it out for yourself on the Internet.

Sisyrinchium 'Dragon's Eye' is a relatively new introduction to the UK. It has large pale lavender flowers with distinct plum-purple colored veining radiating from the center around the yellow eye. Apparently this hybrid was introduced to the UK from California and originally named *S.* 'Dragon Eyes'.

Sisyrinchium 'Quaint & Queer' is a very attractive hybrid with alternate flower segments of biscuit and purple-brown, with a yellow eye and grows to less than one foot in height. *S.* 'Biscuitella' (often spelt *S.* 'Biscutella') and *S. nudicaule* x *montanum* are similar in appearance and originally differed only in height, although now it is very difficult to distinguish one from the other.

Closely related to *Sisyrinchium*, with its rush-like leaves, is the genus *Olsynium*. These flower earlier than *Sisyrinchium* and die back to an underground rhizome after flowering. Our favourites are:

Olsynium douglasii has shimmering reddish-rose or purple pendant flowers and is truly beautiful. It ranges from California northwards along the west coast; no wonder its American name is the satin flower. We find the white form much easier to grow.

Olsynium filifolium is native to Chile and the Falkland Islands and is the national flower of the latter. It is known as the maiden flower. This is an absolute gem with nodding bell-shaped, crystal-white, scented flowers.

Olsynium junceum is native of the high Andes of Chile, Argentina and Bolivia. It has pink flowers and also occurs as a white form. This is one of the easiest *Olsynium* species to flower.

Growing conditions

There is no uniformity concerning the type of soils in which the species grow in their natural habitats as they vary from lush meadows in North America to volcanic scree in the High Andes to bogs and swamps in Brazil. They are also non-specific to soil types as they are found in both alkaline and acidic soils.

Generally, *Sisyrinchium* prefer not to be in water-logged conditions as the vast majority need reasonable drainage and prefer open sunny sites. We recommend lifting and dividing the plants every three or four years, very much like irises, as this enables old rhizomes and any dead material to be removed at the base. When replanting, shorten the length of the roots and plant so that the base is just below the soil level. Some of the more commonly available species produce large quantities of seed and we recommend removing the fruits before they are dispersed if new plants are not wanted. Most *Sisyrinchium* and *Olsynium* species currently available grow easily from seed. However, patience is needed for *Sisyrinchium palmifolium* as this species can take up to 18 months to germinate, but it is certainly worth the wait.

We recommend to all iris lovers, and we count ourselves amongst them, to try growing *Sisyrinchium* in the same borders as your *Iris* as they will continue flowering long after the irises have faded.

We are avid conservationists with a particular passion for Mexican and South American plants, especially *Iridaceae*. We do not sell our plants or seeds commercially; our interest is simply growing and conserving these fascinating plants. Some might even consider this an obsession. We hope our article has inspired you to grow and appreciate *Sisyrinchium* and should you grow any rare or some of the less common native species (e.g. *S. dichotomum*; *S. funereum*; *S. hendersonii*; *S. hitchcockii*; etc. or *Nemastylis floridana*) then we would love to hear from you. 🌸

The 2008 National Convention from a Youth's View

By Gabe Lockhart, Missouri

Now that school is out I can finally sit down and write about my experience at my first national convention. My trip began when my grandpa dropped my mother and me off at the St. Louis airport. It was a little confusing trying to find where to check in our bags and get our boarding passes. I had flown before, but mom had not flown since all of the security changes. I had to show mom how to print out her boarding passes and tell her she had to put her carry-ons in separate trays as well as shoes and jacket. We made it through security, and even found seats together on a full flight. We had to change planes but the next gate was close so we had no problems. I have to say I felt really smart that day. We finally arrived in Austin at our hotel only to find as we unpacked that my dress shoes were gone and most of my socks. I was going to have to wear my tennis shoes with my dress slacks and tie. Oh well, I was just glad to be at the national convention and proud to represent the youth from Region 18.

Shortly after arriving I met some of the other youth at the reception as well as Cheryl Deaton. We all had fun and filled the room with laughter as we got to know each other. Of course we all enjoyed the snacks as well as a pizza party later.

The schedule was busy the next few days. I really enjoyed the presentations and the garden tours. I know there was not a lot of bloom like people were hoping for but I was excited that I did get to see some irises in bloom that I had bought and planted the year before, and had not seen yet, as well as see some new ones that I liked. I also enjoyed getting to see the different types of gardens, from commercial and natural to well-landscaped and a farm setting. This gave me some ideas that I might like to try with my own garden. As well as getting to see some irises and different types of gardens, I enjoyed taking the garden training. The judges that led the training were very knowledgeable and helpful as well as the group I was in. I felt lucky to be in a group and on a bus with people that had such a wealth of knowledge. Besides the gardens I really enjoyed the presentations. The part I enjoyed most was getting to hear some of the hybridizers speak and show their slides. These were the hybridizers that I had always heard about, read about,

and even had some of their irises but had never had the opportunity to see, hear or meet them in person. It was great!

The highlight of the convention was the awards banquet. Everyone was dressed nice, the decorations and tables were nice and the food was delicious. I felt like there was excitement in the air as people waited for the awards to be given out. I know I was excited and couldn't believe how nice the award was that was given to me for the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Youth Achievement Award in addition to the cash award. What was another surprise was winning the Ackerman Essay Contest and cash award. I just couldn't believe it. It was so exciting! I couldn't believe all the flashes going off of people taking pictures. I think that's the most pictures that have ever been taken of me. I felt like a movie star. I even think some people may have taken some pictures of my tennis shoes! It may have been the tangerine soles and tips on the toes, besides the story that was told about losing my dress shoes. Or could it be that the tangerine tips on my shoes was a reminder of tangerine beards on a blue iris? I never thought about that before.

After the convention I had another highlight to remember and carry in my memories. Cheryl Deaton took my mother and me over to some of the hybridizers and introduced us. We were able to get their autographs as well as get our pictures taken with them. This was a special moment for me as well as a special night that I will always cherish. I want to thank all of you who help support our youth and make special moments like this happen. Thank you so much to all of you who work with youth, give of your time, or give money for awards and scholarships from the local and regional levels to the national level. It is deeply appreciated. 🌸



Photo: K. Norris

LeRoy Meininger and John Cauley at the 2008 AIS National Convention

Preserving Kleinsorge Irises

By Mike Unser, Washington

I didn't expect to end up with a collection of 700 historic irises. I just wanted to clean up some weedy flower beds at a house I was renting. Ugly and badly overgrown with blackberries and grass, the beds held just a few rhodies, old roses and lilacs struggling to survive in their neglect. Having wonderful memories of my grandmothers' gardens from my childhood to guide me, I began making plans for flower borders, but my inexperience combined with terrible soil and a lack of funds made this a challenge.

I started collecting seeds and starts of various common flowers from neighbors and from escaped plants along the alleys I walked thru going to and from work, getting an idea of what would live in my poor soil and tough conditions. I noticed about this time that my neighbor had an iris bed badly overgrown with grass that was being mowed over about the edges and slowly becoming lawn. Hidden in the grass were dozens of rhizomes bravely growing onward even with fans barely a few inches high, always getting clipped during the summer. I carefully rescued several of these and relocated them to one of my beds. The next spring I fell in love.

A rainbow of colors bloomed for me – fuchsia, gold & red, rich purple and light blue – something clicked. Many of my grandmothers' flowers were favorites; lilacs, peonies, tiger lilies and bleeding hearts still give me a thrill, but nothing like these irises did. This dormant love had been reawakened, bringing memories of the tall purples in Grandma Westphal's carefully tended perennial beds and the riot of colors edging Grandma Unser's vegetable garden. There was one I remembered most – a lovely sparkling rust brown bitone that grew in a huge clump at the corner of the strawberry patch. The quest for a brown iris was on.

The internet revolution was just then taking off and in my attempt to learn more about gardening I stumbled upon Gardenweb.com, where I began swapping plants with people all over the country. Of course irises were a big focus and over the next few years I ended up with dozens of varieties from many generous folks, discovering along the way a distinct preference for the old ones with their clean simple lines. I chanced upon a copy of the 1941 Cooley's Gardens catalog on the auction site eBay and picked it up hoping to put a few names to my pass-along beauties,

and that's when I found them – the amazing varieties of Dr. Kleinsorge. An obsession was born.

Right on the cover was the wonderful 'Grand Canyon' resplendent in shades of dusky plum and smoky fuchsia, and each page brought another treat; 'Old Parchment', 'Arctic', 'Aztec Copper', and 'Far West'. More lovely blends and browns than I even knew existed! I had to have them, and almost immediately I began combing the websites and catalogs of iris growers looking for any varieties for sale. Shortly thereafter a half dozen or so were in the ground and I was eagerly anticipating seeing them in person. They did not disappoint.

Dr. Rudolph E. Kleinsorge began his iris hybridizing career in a small garden in Beaverton, Oregon in the 1920's. Cooley's Gardens introduced his very first iris, 'Klamath', in 1929, and a long friendship with this garden and family was begun, with Cooley's introducing all but a handful of the 100 varieties the good doctor created in his long career which ended with 'Buckaroo' in 1962. Along the way his varieties were met with acclaim and awards, with the exquisite 'Daybreak' nearly winning the Dykes Medal in 1946. He was best known for his wonderful blends and especially his brown-toned varieties.

I was fortunate to have become friends with Laetitia Munro through the Gardenweb Iris forum and soon she was helping me locate varieties, with many coming from the Rebert's collection. I joined HIPS about that time as well and after contributing to a report in *ROOTS* on members most-wanted varieties, I made the acquaintance of Cameron Hall who kindly shared several starts of rarities from his collection that are no longer available for sale. In the past few years Phil Edinger has done the same from his amazing collection, filling in the beds with varieties I had long thought extinct. I am deeply grateful for the wisdom, experience and plants they have shared with me.

With such generous help I'm currently up to 36 varieties with a few more trickling in each year. Some, of course, aren't correct. 'Golden Crown' opened recently and drat! It was that cute little 'Romeo' instead, and while a gold-brown bicolor that opened is quite pleasing it's not the 'Toast An Honey' it was sold as. Back to the hunt for both. The long anticipated 'Far West' turned out to be 'Treasure Island' – a thrill if it hadn't already been in the garden - while 'Prince of Orange' disappeared during the last move. I have several lovely browns, such as 'El Paso' and 'Buckskin', but none are that shimmering rusty brown bitone I remember so clearly from grandma's garden.

The search for 'Tobacco Road' still goes on, though probably in vain, as no one has seen this classic beauty in many years. Once the most widely acclaimed iris in the US and parent of over 200 varieties, it

unfortunately had a tendency to rot and is likely lost. Perhaps it is tucked away in some west coast garden somewhere. There's always hope. We still do have with us about half of the doctor's creations and many won't suffer the fate as 'Tobacco Road'. It would be hard to imagine the loss of 'Grand Canyon' or 'Sunset Blaze', with their extremely vigorous growth habit. Both are widely distributed and commonly found in historic collections. I couldn't again be without the huge flowers and wonderful cherry tones of 'Maroon Damask', nor the richness of 'Black And Gold' with its deep colors and beautiful details. I'll be sharing these and many others with friends as the years go on. Some varieties are prone to bloomout, but knowing this it is easy to watch them and leave the bloomstalks uncut until new fans appear in late summer.

It appears this may be a collection that takes a lifetime to accumulate, and I'm okay with that. That little spark of memory has grown into an abiding source of joy and a delicious sense of anticipation each spring as May approaches. Other hybridizers have since caught my eye and the number of varieties from Dave Hall, Grace Sturtevant and Goos & Koenemann continue to proliferate about the iris beds. I'm increasingly drawn to Lloyd Austin's space-agers as well. But my first love will always be the Kleinsorge varieties. I'll happily play caretaker for them over the years until someone else falls in love and I can pass them along as others did for me. Along this chain we'll preserve this beauty for future generations. 🌸

*Don't forget submission
deadlines for upcoming
AIS Bulletins!*

**Nov. 15 for January 2009
and Feb. 15 for April 2009**

The Historic Iris Preservation Society

By Paul Gossett, Oklahoma

The Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS) is the newest section of the American Iris Society, founded in San Jose, California in 1986 by Carolee Clay who was appointed as the interim president. On April 30, 1989 at the Memphis AIS convention, an organizational meeting was held and the name of Historic Iris Preservation Society was adopted. The following were elected as the new officers: Anne Lowe as President, Larry Doucette as Vice President, Brian Clough as Secretary, and Verona Wiekhorst as Treasurer. As of the 2008 AIS convention, HIPS had 239 members.

The mission of the organization is to locate, record, preserve and aid in distribution of antique iris cultivars registered and/or introduced into commerce prior to a date to be determined by the HIPS Board of Directors.

Over the years, HIPS has been very successful and has grown in membership worldwide. HIPS has been of great value to the iris world in preserving irises of all types for our future generations. The general public as well as the HIPS membership wants more information to assist in preserving and locating older and rarer varieties. HIPS also seeks to educate the general public on the importance of preserving our iris history and ways in which they can become involved in such work. HIPS does the same for other iris organizations, stressing the importance of preserving older varieties of irises of all types.

Now you may ask, "Why is it important to grow Historic Irises?" Historic irises take us back to our iris roots, no pun intended. You can see the advances that have been made in irises over the years in colors, forms, patterns, and other traits. It does not matter whether you grow historic tall bearded, *Spuria*, *Siberian*, *aril* or any of the other types of irises. What's important is that you are growing historic irises, keeping them grown in gardens and in commerce. If we lose our historic irises, we lose our past. Each year many of our historic irises are lost because someone decided not to grow them or threw them away.

I would like to thank the convention committees of past AIS conventions for their support of historic irises and including them in some of the tour gardens. In keeping with that tradition, the 2009

Kansas City Convention Committee has agreed, in cooperation with HIPS, to showcase plantings of historic irises on the garden tours. Thank you from the Historic Iris Preservation Society.

I would like to encourage the entire iris world to include historic irises of any and all types in their garden landscapes and also to assist the Historic Iris Preservation Society in preserving historic irises. 🌸



Photo: Unser

'Old Parchment'

Winners of the 2008 AIS Photo Contest

By Kitty Loberg, California

Our 2008 Contest has been judged and photos are scheduled to appear in the upcoming January *Bulletin* and on the AIS website. Each year we enjoy a diversity of entries. Close up photography remains our largest category, with art effects, macro photos, and photos of pets or wildlife becoming our second largest category this year. Our youth participation has grown each year with seven youth exhibitors this year.

This year I invited some of our top exhibitors from last year to be our judges. Our first judge, Carol Ann Moyer, was the winner of the largest category, close-ups, in 2007, and placed with a couple of honorable mention photos as well. Carol Ann resides in Doylestown, Pennsylvania and has a garden named in her honor, the Carol Ann Moyer Iris Garden located within the Henry Schmieder Arboretum of Delaware Valley College in Doylestown.

Our second judge was Steve Blecher. He is the RVP of Region 20 and resides in Littleton, Colorado. Steve enjoys entering several photo contests each year and placed as runner-up in the events category and with an honorable mention.

Our third judge was Grace Farley, age 17 and a senior at Lincoln Lutheran High School in Lincoln, Nebraska. Grace was the winner of our youth category in 2007 and has competed and received honors in other youth photo contests as well, including the Best Unedited Photo in the National Junior Horticulture Association Contest. I thank our three judges for the time and commitment they gave to help us judge the 2008 contest.

Because we have a large number of exceptional photos submitted, all of the winning photographs and a large group of honorable mention photos are displayed at the website www.irisphotocontest.org. I hope you enjoy the wonderful photography submitted by our contestants, and a big thank you to everyone who sent in entries!

Congratulations to the following 2008 Photo Contest Winners:

Irises Used in a Landscaped Garden:

Winner: Peggy Cathey of Cavington, Texas

Runner Up: Karen Diedrich of Walker, Michigan

Irises in a Field or Home Garden:

Winner: Patricia N. McNeal of Preston, Maryland

Runner Up: Karen Diedrich of Walker, Michigan

Events, tours, a person or people (at iris location), shows:

Winner: Happy Carver of Weatherford, Texas

Runner Up: Tabitha R. Bednar of Preston, Maryland

Close Up of an Iris or Irises:

Winner: Janet Hill of Virginia Beach, Virginia

Runner Up: Jeanette Graham of Twin Falls, Idaho

Photos with art effects, macro photos of bloom segments, photos of pets or wildlife in the irises:

Winner: Aaron P. Skiles of Cuba, New Mexico

Runner Up: Tom Hailey of Apple Valley, California

Any category taken by a youth photographer (under 19):

Winner: Tabitha R. Bednar of Preston, Maryland

Runner Up: Sadie Prowell of Lenexa, Kansas 

Why Belong to AIS

By Cheryl Deaton, California

Recently, I was talking to a friend and she asked me what I thought the benefits of belonging to AIS were, because when she was asked she couldn't come up with anything. I remembered Rita Gormley's article from the January 2004 *Bulletin* and put a personal twist on it. We all should know why we are AIS members and why others should be too!

1. The American Iris Society is the International Registry for all rhizomatous irises.
2. Sets judges' training standards and credentials to ensure quality judging in all Regions.
3. Established a national awards system for all types of rhizomatous irises.
4. Publishes the *Bulletin* four times a year, an extremely informative and beautiful publication.
5. AIS liability insurance extends to Affiliate's show venues, meetings and garden tours.
6. American Iris Society Web Page – www.irises.org - with links to many other Iris sites.
7. Each Affiliated Society receives a free copy of the *Bulletin*, therefore each Affiliated Society has the opportunity to cast one vote for the Symposium on behalf of the Affiliated Society. This provides an opportunity for a Popularity Poll Program.
8. Maintains the AIS Library for research and recording.
9. Youth programs nationally and regionally with awards, contests and newsletters.
10. Each Affiliated Society receives one set of free AIS adult medals for each accredited show sponsored by that Affiliate.
11. Each Affiliated Society receives free use of one set of AIS slides/CDs per year.
12. Publications of interest to iris gardeners are available through the AIS Storefront, many of which are not available anywhere else.
13. Affiliates can apply for 501©(3) status (tax-exempt) under the IRS Code. Members of a 501©(3) society may deduct contributions (rhizomes, etc.) to the society and AIS if they itemize deductions.
14. The annual AIS Convention which allows everyone to maintain friendships, make new friends and view lovely gardens growing the

newer irises available. Don't forget the diversity of seminars and training sessions either.

15. Voting the Symposium ballot. You get to vote on your favorite irises.

16. The people – Irisarians are the best in the world! 🌸

Photo: K. Norris



Attendees viewing simulated show.

Commercial Iris Production:

The Way We Do It

By Kelly D. Norris, Iowa

Over the last six years in business, we've often been asked how we do it. That is, how do we operate a commercial iris garden? The purpose of this article is to answer that question, succinctly, while encouraging other commercial gardens to do the same. I know all of us have our own unique twist on how to do things based on the size and scope of our business. But many of our fellow irisarians are keenly interested in knowing what goes into producing the plants they look forward to each July, August, and September. Consider this a cordial invitation to profile your operation and give insights into how your produce irises. Who knows, we all might end up tweaking something along the way.

First, a little background information. Rainbow Iris Farm is a 7.5 acre family business that we operate on our farm in southwest Iowa. The business was founded by Cliff and Rita Snyder of Bartlett, Texas in 1997. We acquired it from them in 2002, moving the business and all 40,000 rhizomes by semi-truck from Texas to Iowa. We joke that we *had* nine friends that helped us that fall to plant the inventory, in addition to our existing iris collection, all in all totaling more than 300-man hours. Our irises are planted in contoured beds (we're active soil and water conservationists) that are 20 feet wide with a 10 foot grass strip in between each of them. The plants themselves are grown in six raised rows that are 38 inches apart.

We market our products through our print catalog mailed to approximately 3,000 clients each February as well as through our website. We're often asked how lucrative the website is versus more traditional methods of commerce. Our website supplies nearly 60% of our annual revenue with the rest coming from catalog orders and on-site traffic during our spring bloom festival.

Spring is sales season obviously, and we've been fortunate to partner with our local community to put on a signature economic event called *Bedford in Bloom* in conjunction with our month-long celebration of irises in bloom which we call *Bloomfest!*. Going on five years, *Bedford in Bloom* is a significant economic boon for our small community of 1,500 people, effectively doubling the size of the town for a day. A proverbial

kickoff event to our iris season, it's a celebration of gardening, irises, and small town spirit that garners local radio and TV coverage. It is a family event that offers an array of entertaining activities for all ages. Highlights of previous events have been guided tours of our farm and gardens (we don't just collect irises after all), an educational seminar series featuring regional gardening experts and a live monarch butterfly release on the steps of the courthouse followed by a free BBQ lunch open to the public.

When it comes to processing orders, we use Peachtree Accounting 2006 which also helps us manage all the other tasks associated with operating a small business. Our plans for 2009 including upgrading to a new edition to accommodate two computer terminals in our sales shed to eliminate some of the office work in June. Currently orders are taken by hand and then entered into the order system at a later date. While I don't proclaim to be an efficiency expert, "it ain't working!" Most editions of Peachtree software are complete with inventory management, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and employee management tools to streamline most business needs. Our lives would certainly be more hectic without it (and prior to 2006 they were)!

Where we like to think of ourselves as unique is in the digging and preparing of plants for shipment. All orders for a particular "dig" (two in July, three in August, and two in September) are batched in gross to maximize efficiency. The sizes of the digs vary from month to month and year to year but usually we ship 5-10,000 plants in a growing season. We offer a wide-range of shipping dates for our clients, who garden in all fifty states and some international locales including Canada, the UK, and Taiwan. After the plants are dug, marked in ink, and clipped (all done in the field with a traveling order station attached to our golf cart or lawn tractor), we transport them from the field to the site of our iris washing machine (pictured). The product of a long winter, my dad designed and built a machine capable of washing 100 irises in about five minutes. While not currently taking orders or looking to patent his creation just yet, this machine has saved us quite a lot of time and energy. Here's how it works. A 500-gallon stock tank contains a five-horse centrifugal pump that recirculates the 240 gallons per minute emitted by two, cross-style sprayer booms. The booms are mounted over a four and one half foot diameter turntable powered by two 90 degree gear boxes and drive shaft. We disinfest our plants with a 5% bleach solution which we keep fresh by emptying and refilling the tank every couple of weeks. Customers are often impressed by the cleanliness of our product and its fresh appearance.

We've elected to ship our orders using USPS Priority Mail which

we feel delivers plants to our clients in a speedier and more cost effective way than other services. We try to ship all of our orders on Mondays and Tuesdays to allow sufficient time for them to arrive before the end of the week. We don't want all of that hard work sitting in a hot box somewhere unattended!

Though this has been a slightly frenetic and cursory overview of our business, we hope that it gives you an insight into the innovation that nurserymen employ to grow and ship their products. We are always looking for ways to improve our business and firmly believe that a nursery industry, whether local or national, can only be strengthened by communication amongst growers about what works and what doesn't. Since iris growers of all sizes don't have any forum to turn to for production advice, consider this a humble start. Share your tips, ideas, and thoughts. We've all got something to gain and nothing to lose. 🌸



Display garden at Rainbow Iris Farm

Storybook Irises

By Jean E. Morris, Missouri

We all know that a name can make or break the marketability of an iris. ‘Neanderthal’, for example, might have been overlooked by us if the name had not been so perfect for the “dirty” color and near-black beards. Because of its apt name, it is an iris we HAD to grow. We enjoy pointing it out to people at bloom time to see their reaction.

Since I work with the youth members in Region 18, I decided it would be fun to plant a small iris bed at the Missouri Botanical Garden (MOBOT) and also at a St. Louis charter school using irises with names from children’s literature. These gardens will be called the “Storybook Gardens” and include medians, tall bearded and possibly a few beardless irises if a suitable planting spot can be found.

MOBOT offers classes for young people wanting to learn about plants and we are initiating a Classroom Iris Project (CIP) at the charter school – City Academy. We will ask the students, “How do you think irises (and other plants) get their names?” From that point it will be easy to discuss how the American Iris Society registers iris names for all the countries of the world, and how other countries serve as registrars for other plant groups. At this point hybridizing can be demonstrated or explained and the iris names in the garden can be reviewed and pointed out in the AIS registration books. The young people will be familiar with most of the iris names in their “Storybook” iris bed. If the students are very young, a short story time could even follow the discussion.

It was fun researching the iris names and deciding which ones to include in the two gardens. Availability and expense were a factor, plus how to stretch the bloom season. The irises need not be in bloom to hold a discussion with the students, but seeing the irises in bloom would make it more interesting. At MOBOT, a handout with AIS youth membership information will be shared with the classes. The AIS dues of the students at City Academy’s CIP will be paid by the Greater St. Louis and Kirkwood Iris Societies.

Following is a list of “Storybook Iris” names we came up with for the gardens. We tried to include some suitable for a range of age groups, and tried to include a variety of hybridizers. Most of the irises are from the 90s or newer so they will be easier to acquire. The following were chosen for planting.

TBs: 'Jurassic Park', 'Yellow Brick Road', 'Star Wars', 'Hans Brinker', 'Magic Bus', 'Big Bird', and 'Miss Piggy'.

BBs: 'Calico Cat', 'Snoopy', 'Goodnight Moon', and 'Little Mary Sunshine'

IBs: 'Ameila Bedeila', 'Kermit', 'Little Mermaid', 'Grindlewald', 'Dumbledore', and 'Ruby Slippers'

SDBs: 'Auntie Em', 'Muggles', 'Pippi Longstockings', 'Toy Story', 'Gingerbread Man', 'Spiderman', 'Tweety Bird', 'Yearling', 'Blues Clues', 'Ping the Duck', and 'Velveteen Rabbit'

LAs: 'Princess Leia' and 'Truly Scrumptious'

Jl: 'Lion King'

I feel these gardens will make it easy to interact with young people of many ages and teach them about hybridizing and how irises are named. It should also make the youths feel connected to irises named for a favorite story, play, movie or poem. If it adds to our AIS youth numbers, that will be an additional bonus.

Feel free to copy this idea in your own area or even in your own garden. And hybridizers, I know you are always searching for new iris names. I am certain there are hundreds of "Storybook" names still available. Why not use a few? I find them quite charming. 🌸

Photo: J. Morris



'Flopsy' (Loomis-Gates R. 90) TB

Species and the Historic Garden

By Laetitia Munro, New Jersey

As the Display Garden Chairperson for HIPS, I manage to keep track of the approximately 50 gardeners who have volunteered to grow a historic display for the public. Despite the latest and greatest inventions of our modern hybridizers, this small group of “hardcore” historic iris growers continue to flourish and seek out the classically popular oldies along with the most obscure old “dogs”, that if the hybridizer were alive today he would wince in agony at their adulation.

But this article is about the pre-historics, specifically the bearded ones. Yes, HIPS members grow ‘Wabash’ and ‘Honorabile’ and ‘Quaker Lady’, and whatever else they can get their hands on, but in addition they love their NOIDS and those of murky origin, the oft-called species, clones, or natural hybrids. In many cases we just don’t know if they are truly species or not.

Today, there is rarely a collector of historic iris who does not have at least one clump of *I. pallida* growing somewhere in the garden. While there are many species out there, *I. pallida*, hands down, is the most popular and vigorous. You don’t have to look far to find it growing in all kinds of places while receiving no care. On a recent stroll through a local cemetery, I noted at least 12 different variations of our old friend *I. pallida* happily thriving with no one to squeeze them for borers or spray them for leaf spot. A good specimen of *I. pallida* is not hard to spot: tall and lavender, its papery spathes and thick pale foliage betray its identity. Gardeners seem to either love or hate it. It’s quite invasive as it quickly crowds out its hybridized neighbors, but its scent is heavenly and a display of clumps of *I. pallida* is a beautiful sight. One seedling named ‘Princess Beatrice’, which is apparently a pure clone, was prized as being the best of the pallidas for many years in the 19th century. Another clone called ‘Odoratissima’ was prized for its rather strong but pleasant scent.

Collecting wild iris (as in going out in the fields and such) by plucking them out and bringing them home is nothing new. Apparently it was a rather popular hobby in the 18th century, probably even earlier

though rarely were notes kept on such activities. Sir Michael Foster, doctor, professor and noted statesman had a huge collection donated by missionaries and travelers. Encouraged by his pal W.R. Dykes, Foster crossed these collected irises in an effort to replicate some of the wild types that he obtained. His success at such an effort led him to conclude that there were fewer iris species than previously circumscribed.

If you took "Iris 101" you will know that two varieties of bearded species from south central Europe, *I. pallida* and *I. variegata*, were the diploid founders of all our modern bearded iris. As vigorous as *I. pallida* is, *I. variegata* is a scrawny, finicky little yellowish thing that you won't find growing in people's old fashioned gardens unless you give it the best of conditions and even then it's not exactly the passalong that *I. pallida* is.

Another iris you might find here and there is the Italian *I. cengialti* that like its cousin *I. pallida* is a purplish-self. However the number of people growing this today appears to be dwindling.

A popular garden iris is *I. germanica*, which is neither a species nor a German, being some sort of natural, sterile hybrid discovered growing in Italy. There are white and purple versions but the more common deep purple one enjoys a popular following in this country.

Many iris growers continue to grow the tiny *I. pumila* which came from the mountains of southeastern Europe. Known sometimes as 'Atroviolacea', they are usually dark purple, early bloomers, but have only one or two blooms on them and are pretty much overlooked. But it was *I. pumila* which made the IBs and various other medians developed over the years for our enjoyment.

Other irises known as 'Squalens' or 'Plicata', or 'Sambucina', or even 'Flavescens' (DeCandolle 1813) are not species but are in all likelihood natural diploid hybrids still found in many gardens today. The yellow 'Flavescens' remained quite questionable as to its species status but was finally deemed a hybrid with origins unknown. [*Ed. Note-As natural hybrids grown as horticultural clones, these are best treated as cultivars, hence the use of single quotations around their pseudo-Latin names.*]

Then there are the Middle Eastern bearded irises which revolutionized iris breeding. You will find the 'Albicans' (white) and 'Amas' types still being grown in gardens, and the contribution of these tetraploids to the development of the modern bearded iris cannot be overstated.

Here and there you will find the unusual species such as, *I. illyrica*, *I. kochii*, and *I. kashmiriana*, all of which can be seen on the HIPS website. Thanks to organizations like SIGNA, HIPS members can try their hand at growing unusual species seeds otherwise unobtainable.

Amongst the historic display gardens, there seems to be always a spot for a few of these as well as other species bearded. Common

and beloved specimens include the fake 'Gypsy Queen', a gold and maroon variegata, Sambucina-like diploids of dark purple falls and smoky standards, and a charming amoena of white standards and orchid lavender falls, which seem to be more common in Canada.

But what do gardeners DO with these things? Are they popular, beloved, or just tolerated?

I asked Linda Sercus, Garden Superintendent at Presby Iris Gardens in Montclair, New Jersey, about species and near species. When Presby was first built in 1927, many specimens came from John Wister's private collection. As the story goes, when Mr. Wister was released from military duty in WWI, he asked to stay behind so he could go collecting wild specimens for his own collection. He ended up in Paris in 1922 at the National Iris Convention before heading home, where he undoubtedly added more European species iris to be sent to the USA. How many of those still exist at Presby today? No one knows, but Linda continues to research the old material at Presby to find out the real story. At one time in Barbara Walther's heyday there were many hundreds of species and near species at Presby, but no more. There is only a handful left. One of the future goals of Presby is to restore the species beds when time and money are available.

I asked Linda if people who come to Presby, where there are thousands of iris cultivars on display, have any apparent interest in the species. While agreeing that they were not the flashiest denizens of the garden, international visitors, or those who came from Europe years ago greatly admired them and saw them as the iris they knew as children, eliciting warm and happy memories. Linda includes the species and near species on regular tours of the iris garden where their importance is noted as the building blocks of modern iris growing nearby. Linda sees the Presby iris collection as a living museum of iris history where species play an important role in iris development and plans to keep species in a prominent role in Presby's future.

So what else do people see in the species?

There are some display gardeners who continue to use species to cross with each other as well as moderns mainly "just because". Kelly Norris admits to using his *I. lurida*, a cousin to *I. variegata*, to get seed pods, as there are almost unlimited possibilities. Another iris grower who is not exactly an historic iris aficionado but a gardener of many things, Thomas Silvers of Maryland, has been crossing species and near species for several years now and has been coming up with some beautiful, delicate and desirable iris, some of which, surprisingly, are rebloomers. He crosses *I. aphylla* with *I. aphylla* hoping to intensify the PBF. He has worked with white 'Kupari' and *I. suaveolens* var. *rubromarginata* as well.

He has even registered one of his creations as 'Clown Pants', a variegata which he continues to use for breeding as well.

So what do I see in the future of species clones for the historic gardener? I think that people have found ways to enjoy species, to use species for breeding creatively, and to respect species for their historic value. For myself, I just like to ponder the mysteries of the past of these clones. How did they originate? Did a medieval monk or an illiterate home gardener of peas and potatoes, take a hand in cross-pollinating stray iris from the fields? Most likely we will never know the answers. But you can hold that 'Squalens' and just ponder its origins and be content in the fact that hundreds maybe even thousands of years ago, someone crossed something and saw an original beauty which happily still exists for us today. 🌸



Above left: Old diploid cultivar
in circulation



Above right: *Iris cengjaltii*

Right: Another NOID frequently
grown in gardens



Photos: L. Munro

Bob Pries On:

The Next Generation's American Iris Society

By Bob Pries, North Carolina

We all know the value of belonging to the iris society today but what about in five or ten years? What will the next generation see in the American Iris Society?. The possibilities are exciting. But much of the success of the future depends on our actions today. One of the major missions of the AIS is to fund scientific research on irises and relay the benefits of such work to its members.

There has never been a time when more researchers are investigating the genus *Iris* than today. Already we have seen *Belamcanda*, the blackberry lily re-evaluated and placed in *Iris* as *Iris domestica*. But that is minor news. In the past 25 years, 25 new species have been discovered. Several of these have already become valuable garden plants. For example the newly discovered *Iris cycloglossa* is an easy Juno iris that is now offered by many Dutch bulb companies and *Iris typhifolia* is a Siberian that blooms with the SDBs. Areas of the world where irises grow naturally needs more field work. Areas such as Afghanistan, Iraq are understandably under explored. But there is less excuse for work not happening in Turkey where a new species was just reported last spring and investigators believe there may be several more species to be discovered. It is believed by many that 25 more species could be discovered in the next 25 years provided that small explorations could be funded. These explorations require relatively small grants to willing local botanists who can examine rural environments with modest travel expenses.

Although potential for new finds are high in other countries, it is still likely that new *Iris* species will be described in the USA. It is well known that in the southeastern United States new species are being investigated at present that may profoundly change our evolutionary understanding of the Louisiana irises. But someone may complain these new discoveries may have little relevance to the tall bearded that most our members grow. This is false. There are even bearded irises in the former Yugoslavia and in Iran that are generally unknown to western botanists and not included in Mathew's *The Iris*. Have you ever heard of *Iris caspica*? Areas of the former Soviet Union and China

still promise to bring many surprises. There is reason to believe that new species collections could provide genes that could make bearded irises more resistant to rot, or genes that could provide new color combinations and patterns.

The future is bright. Not only are there two large teams of researchers working on the classification within the genus *Iris*, but there are several groups working on how *Iris* populations function and grow. Implications for breeders could be enormous. Yet at this very time when opportunities are so promising, the funds for research available through the AIS are too slim to finance even a part of many of these projects. The American Iris Society can not afford complete grants for these projects but by providing partial grants we at least show our interest to the researchers and they have some incentive to relay the benefits of their research to our interests.

Past AIS-sponsored research has provided enormous benefits to our hybridizers. By providing real *Iris pumila*, scientists allowed Paul Cook and Geddes Douglas to create the SDBs. Researchers working with the Society have continued to provide the genetic material that has created the hybrids we know and love. Can you imagine a time when there were no dominant amoenas, no pinks, or no reverse amoenas? These accomplishments and many more have been the result of the interaction of scientists and AIS.

But opportunities have also been lost because of lack of funds. Fifteen years ago we could have cured iris borer but the \$15,000 needed was not available. Today the cost would be ten times that and prohibitive. The AIS has done a poor job of communicating these needs and opportunities with the membership. This is why I am writing this piece. If we can build a substantial fund for science the opportunities are great. We need to be ready when opportunities knock. There are rare irises not in cultivation that have genes that fight viruses and other diseases. We may be able to cure irises of these maladies. They may have potential human medical benefits also. Pure science often leads in unexpected directions. Until we fund, how will we know?

What is needed is a fund drive to build the scientific restricted funds for research. Although research is a mandate of the American Iris Society we have rarely had enough money to make big differences. If you really care about promoting irises now and beyond, consider a bequest in your will. The American Iris Society could be a very interesting place in the next ten years and with enough funds can be even more exciting for the next generation. 

Outstanding Hybridizers of the 20th Century:

The British Faction

Anne Lowe, Virginia

(Reprinted from the 2001 British Iris Society Year Book, pages 72-76)

Here in the USA the Tall Bearded Iris Society publishes a magazine *Tall Talk* and in the autumn of 1999 it began a series of articles entitled "Outstanding Hybridizers of the 20th Century" written by yours truly. The first segment covered the years 1900-1939 and dealt with those persons who were instrumental in hybridizing tall bearded irises. Hybridizers to be included were selected by a panel of experienced irisarians who were also knowledgeable iris historians.

The early foundations for the development of bearded irises were laid primarily in England (Foster, Hort and Dykes) and in France (Cayeux) with Germany coming in a distant third (Goos & Koenemann). The United States did not enter the picture until 1909 (Farr).

The importance of these early British irisarians cannot be over emphasized. From their efforts came the ancestors of modern tall bearded irises. These early cultivars and the records and surmises that accompanied their production provided the foundations from which the hybridizers that followed have produced the colors, patterns, and forms which we find in present day cultivars.

The following biographies were printed in the Fall 1999 issue of *Tall Talk*. Many persons provided help with the text. Researching these illustrious gentlemen was a pleasurable and educational experience for us. We hope that you enjoy reading about these remarkable irisarians as much as we enjoyed compiling the data that follows.

Sir Michael Foster

The contributions of Sir Michael Foster, K.C.B., M.D., F.R.S., V.M.H. in laying the foundation for the improvement of the garden iris were of especial importance during the first half of the 20th century. His extensive collection of species, assembled between 1870 and 1905, represented every important section of the genus. He had in his garden, with one exception, all of the large flowered tetraploid

forms from Europe and Asia Minor. These contributed substantially to revolutionary improvements of the tall bearded iris.

He was born in Huntingdon, England, on 8th March 1836, the son of a surgeon. He also studied medicine, later becoming a distinguished professor of physiology at both the University of London and Cambridge. He represented London University in Parliament from 1900-1905. The establishment and maintenance of an iris garden at Shelford served as recreation for a man who was a careful observer of the distinguishing characteristics and habits of iris species.

Sir Michael made his first cross in 1870. He was one of the first to tackle scientific breeding and he did it out of scientific curiosity rather than to produce objects of beauty for the garden. He was not interested in the propagation and introduction of his hybrid seedlings as garden varieties and very few of his approximately 50 named cultivars were listed in catalogues until after his death in 1907. The meticulous care with which he kept his records provided invaluable information to iris hybridizers who followed. W. R. Dykes, Sir Arthur Hort and William Caparne were among those influenced by Foster to become actively interested in irises at a time when the iris was not a well known garden plant.

'Amas' was collected and sent to him in 1885 and it and its progeny became the foundation of the Sass line in the USA. However, Foster's most important contribution to iris breeding was undoubtedly the production of the tetraploid tall bearded varieties 'Caterina' (1909), 'Shelford Chieftan' (1909), 'Lady Foster' (1913), 'Miss Willmott' (1910) and 'Kashmir White' (1913). The large white irises 'Miss Willmott' and 'Kashmir White' assumed great importance in later breeding work both in Europe and the US as they were the first tetraploid white varieties of the dominant type. While Foster regarded 'Miss Willmott' as one of his finest seedlings, and it was unrivalled for the stout and smooth, almost leathery, texture of the petals and the ivory white color, it was a poor breeder and was speedily superseded by 'Kashmir White'.

The parentage of both 'Kashmir White' and 'Miss Willmott' is unclear, and there is much conjecture as to what the cross actually was, but Foster's records would indicate that a white flowered form, probably a tetraploid of *I. kashmiriana* was used. In tracing the origins of the many lovely white irises of today, it becomes apparent that most of them are descended from 'Kashmir White' by way of 'Argentina' (Mohr 1923) and 'Purissima' (Mohr-Mitchell 1927). 'Kashmir White' is also in the pedigree of 'Snow Flurry' (Rees 1939), which is one of the most prolific ancestors ever.

'Crusader' (1913), a clear, pale lavender-blue *I. cypriana* hybrid of vigorous growth and rapid increase, stands behind 'Dymia' (Shuber 1936) which is one of the foundation irises of black lines.

Sir Michael Foster's introductions 'Amas', 'Caterina', 'Crusader' and 'Kashmir White' can be found behind all of the Dykes Medal winners except 'San Francisco', 'Great Lakes', 'Copper Lustre' (unknown), 'Spun Gold', 'Elmohr', 'Stepping Out' (parentage unknown) and 'Dusky Challenger' (unknown). Important ancestors indeed!

Sometimes known as "the father of iris growing", Sir Michael Foster was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour in 1897. In 1925, the British Iris Society founded the Foster Memorial Plaque in his honour. He died on 28th January, 1907, survived by his second wife, a son and a daughter.

William Rickatson Dykes

William Rickatson Dykes, M.A., L.-es-L., V.M.H. was born on 4th November, 1877. He attended Wadham College, Oxford, where he took honors in classical studies. He later received an advanced degree at the University of Paris. In 1924, he married Katherine, who in their short time together, provided a happy, comfortable home for him and showed a keen interest in his work, and her own, after his death. Two of her fine introductions 'Gudrun' (1930) and 'Joyance' (1929) received the coveted Dykes Medal.

This English gentleman was a botanist, horticulturist, schoolmaster, plant breeder, author and the foremost authority on irises, but, first and always, William Dykes was his own gardener. To collect the seed himself and to bring the plant safely through the cycle of its life to seed-time again was his great joy. To his first love, the genus *Iris*, he was always true, but he loved all plants.

It is impossible to deal with all of W. R. Dykes' activities in a few lines. He had a worldwide reputation as the leading authority on irises, and he was a worthy successor to the great Sir Michael Foster. It was doubtless his meetings with Sir Michael that first attracted him to the study of the Iris family. There could not have been found a more apt pupil or a more qualified teacher, or possibly two men more dissimilar in most ways.

Dykes was a capable gardener, and could grow to perfection the plants he studied. He was a skillful hybridizer and was the most severe critic of his own seedlings. He felt that an iris must be free-flowering, a good grower (though not necessarily tall) and, above all, the color must be clean and brilliant - muddy tones and streaked flowers were an abomination to him.

He was far keener on species than garden hybrids, and deplored the craze for hybrids of the bearded group. He delighted in crossing species and he was always urging extensive cultivation of the wild forms. The origin of what is known as *Iris germanica* was of great interest to him and he worked hard to solve this problem which perplexes irisarians to this day. His ambition was to collect seed, either when on a journey or by correspondence wherever irises grew, raise the plants, and study them

closely from the seedling stage until they grew, flowered, and seeded again. He was an avid collector of information of every sort about iris. He travelled extensively and his correspondence was enormous.

Besides introducing many new species, and despite his avowed prejudice against bearded hybrids, William Dykes raised a large number of bearded irises. Some of his originations are: 'Amber' (1924), 'Aphrodite' (1922) - the best pink iris of the time, 'Aquamarine' (1923), 'Ariadne' (1929), 'Gold Crest' (1914) - his personal favourite, 'Harmony' (1923), 'Lustre' (1925), 'Moonlight' (1923), 'Richard II' (1914), 'Sapphire' (1922), 'Thisbe' (1923), and 'Wedgwood' (1923).

The large-flowered, pure yellow bearded iris, perfect in form and color, of which he was so proud, was named 'W. R. Dykes' and introduced posthumously in 1926 by his wife Katherine. This iris paved the way for the breeding of tetraploid yellow irises. While there has been much discussion concerning the violet or maroon flecks often seen on the flower, this iris was regarded as a fitting memorial to his life's devotion to the genus. Because of its difficult growth habits in some parts, namely the colder regions, 'W R. Dykes' has become almost extinct in the US and even difficult to find in Britain. Perhaps one reason for its disappearance was that it was rapidly superseded by its first generation progeny (e.g. 'Happy Days') which had better flowers and also grew better.

Dykes wrote several books and many articles dealing with irises. In 1911 he completed *Irises: the Genus Iris*, begun in 1909, and published in 1913. Another important book from his pen, *A Handbook of Garden Irises*, dealing with the genus for the use of the practical gardener, was published in 1924. That same year William Dykes was awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal for his monograph *The Genus Iris*, and he received the Victoria Medal of Honour in November, 1925.

On 1st December, 1925, William Rickatson Dykes died from injuries received in a motor accident. In June of 1926, the British Iris Society resolved to award a medal to the hybridizer of the outstanding iris variety each year in memory of Mr. Dykes. Thus the Dykes Medal has become the highly coveted award dreamed of by all hybridizers, and its name keeps his memory alive.

Katherine met her death in a railway accident while returning from the Chelsea Show on 25th May, 1933. How ironic that accidents should take not one but both of these illustrious iris pioneers in such untimely fashion.

Arthur John Bliss

Arthur John Bliss was born in 1860, and resided in Tavistock in Devon. In his early days he went to New Zealand as a surveyor and

thence to South Africa as a mining engineer. His health forced him into early retirement. Although he never allowed his profound deafness to come between him and those he knew well, his disability limited his social contacts and he lived a rather solitary existence in the tiny village of Morwellham near the Cornwall county boundary. His "office" in the little inn where he lived was a grand piano piled high with iris records, seeds, bloom notes, etc. His "garden" consisted of a 100 by 200ft plot crammed with irises in no apparent order.

Mr. Bliss deserves a great deal of credit for the rapid and extraordinary development of the bearded iris during the years from 1915 to 1930. He exercised extreme care and thought in planning his crosses and was one of the first to keep detailed records of everything he had done. He hoped to publish a book on hybridizing in which his records could be used. Unfortunately he died before this was accomplished.

His real importance, however, derives from one instance in 1917 in which he got "lucky". The result was 'Dominion', an iris with great depth of color, a rich velvet texture, and heavy substance, all of which were passed to its children. Bliss gave us, in his original 'Dominion' race of dark beauties, irises which were something definitely new and better; a complete breakaway from the old varieties. These new cultivars provided fresh material for others to work with at a time when few new and different irises were on the market. It is important to remember how much we owe to 'Bruno' (1922), 'Cardinal' (1919), 'Duke of Bedford' (1922), 'Moa' (1919) and 'Swazi' (1922), as well as to 'Dominion' itself. Bliss's other introductions include 'Centurion' (1920), 'Gabriel' (1921) - a fine bicolor blue, 'Majestic' (1923), 'Romola' (1923), 'Tenebrae' (1922), 'Pioneer' (1924), 'Grace Sturtevant' (1926) - so unique in coloring, 'Mrs. Valerie West' (1925) - one of the finest of its time, 'Senlac' (1929) and 'Carfax' (1930). Bliss regarded 'Carfax', a rich dahlia purple with impressive branching and multiple blooms open at one time, as his best introduction since 'Mrs. Valerie West'. Time and garden vigor have a distressing way of modifying what is really significant in a hybridizer's work. Where is 'Carfax' today? Arthur Bliss also gave us a number of decorative garden irises, among them 'Sweet Lavender' (1919), 'Susan Bliss' (1922), 'Evadne' (1921), 'Knysna' (1917), 'Marsh Marigold' (1919) and 'Mystic' (1920).

This modest and retired Englishman who working with few facilities in a remote corner of Devon, accomplished so much, was awarded the Foster Memorial Plaque in November 1930. A few months later, Arthur John Bliss contracted pneumonia and died on 17th February, 1931, leaving uncompleted many tasks which he had set himself. ♪

A Review of Dwarf Species

By Lowell Baumunk, Colorado

(Reprinted from the DIS Newsletter 25(3): 18-19)

For the past few years, I have been collecting the bearded iris species. I am now growing almost 30 different species (multiple clones of many of them) as well as several first generation hybrids from the species. The bloom season begins in late March with *Iris pumila*. Besides *I. pumila*, I am growing a few other species that fall within the height limits of the MDB's.

My garden is in Douglas County, Colorado, at an elevation of 5500 feet. The growing season is such that short-freezes are possible in late May and in September. The climate is dry, with fifteen to twenty inches of annual precipitation distributed irregularly through the year, much of it as snow. The garden soil is sandy loam.

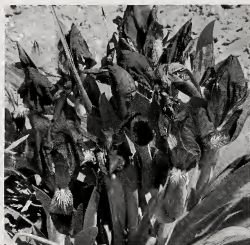
Following is a report on the dwarf species and species hybrids that I grow. I have relied on the SIGNA Checklist of Iris (2002) by Jean Witt and Bob Pries for background material.

I. aphylla 6-12" I grow several clones of *I. aphylla*, most of which are too tall to be considered dwarfs. Among the smallest ones is 'Ostry White' (6-8"). Other smallish varieties are 'Minnow' and 'Bright Water'. 'Ostry White' is unique in that nearly all *aphyllas* are of a highly saturated purple to blue color. 'Ostry White', which was collected in Bohemia and originally distributed by Blazek under the designation "B-66-2", seems to be a *glaciata* or possibly a *plicata*.

Aphyllas are floriferous and hardy. The extensive branching of the bloomstalk and their tetraploidy have made them popular with hybridizers. *Aphylla* can be found in the pedigrees of the Hager tetraploid table irises and Schreiner "black" tall bearded. *Aphyllas* are deciduous. All foliage



'Minnow'



I. alekeenkoi



I. furcata



I. lutescens



I. perrieri



I. pumila 'Lesser Goldfinch'

disappears in the winter and emerges in the manner of our garden bulbs in the spring.

I. alekeenkoii 8-12" I grow only one clone, but it is strong and showy. The foliage and flowers give a somewhat convoluted effect, but not an unpleasing one, at least to those of us who have acquired a taste for the iris species! It is purple and a diploid.

I. attica 2-4" My three attempts to grow *I. attica* have failed. I suspect that they have been winter-killed.

I. furcata 6-9" Looks much like a small *I. aphylla*. Unlike *I. aphylla*, it is a diploid. The two clones I have are very similar to each other. They are a bright, pleasing purple. They are growing very well.

I. lutescens 2-12" *I. lutescens*, known as *I. chamaeiris*, was the principal garden-variety dwarf bearded iris until the importation of *I. pumila* within the last fifty years. It is quite a variable species, but many varieties are very small. I am growing *I. lutescens virescens* 'Rhone Valley' which hugs the earth as it spreads quickly across the bed and produces lots of yellow bloom. I also have a taller named clone and some dwarfish ones grown from SIGNA seed. Colors include yellows, purples and whites and include bitones.

I. perrieri 6-12" The single clone of *I. perrieri* that I grow is another diploid *I. aphylla* look alike. Pretty and vigorous.

I. pseudopumila 6-10" I am managing to keep two varieties alive, but they are not very vigorous. One is a dull yellow and one is purple. Neither has established itself as a pleasing garden subject.

I. pumila 4-6" *I. pumila* is the unchallenged star of the early garden here. First imported to this country less than fifty years ago, clones of *I. pumila* have radically altered the landscape of the smaller hybrid bearded irises. The species itself is a fine garden subject.



I. pumila 'Crouching Tiger'



I. pumila 'Hidden Dragon'



I. pumila Blazek #4



I. pumila "Russia"

The flowers are neat and uniform, growth is strong, and the range of colors is superb. *Pumila* can have trouble getting established after transplanting, probably because of the very small size of the individual rhizomes.

I grow several clones of *I. pumila*. 'Suslik' is the most vigorous and is purple with blue beards. 'Lesser Goldfinch' is the brightest yellow. *I. pumila taurica* is a wonderful orchid-lavender. There are several newly collected clones that have excellent color and patterns. One, from Russia, is almost pink. 'Little Drummer Boy', a gorgeous white with blue spot, is the latest *pumila* to win the Caparne-Welch Award.

I. suaveolens 3-6" I have seen *I. suaveolens* bloom here and it was gorgeous with distinctive, pleasingly formed flowers standing over dwarfed falcate foliage. Unfortunately, this was one bloom to show from several attempts to grow this species. But I am not giving up as I have just acquired two new clones.

I. taochia 6-12" I bloomed two clones grown from seed last spring. The flowers were distinctive and exotic-looking, with especially long narrow falls. It is said to occur in shades of purple to yellow to white.

'Atroviolacea' There is some confusion regarding this name. The plant we grow looks very much like a *I. pumila* and blooms at the same time. It does not, however, seem to be either pollen or pod fertile. 'Atroviolacea' is said to have made its way west across the United States with the early European settlers, and in fact may be found around many old farm sites and cemeteries. Strong and persistent! It is a fine very dark purple with a bright light blue beard and somewhat rounder petals than usually found in *I. pumila*. It is thought perhaps to be a



I. pumila 'Taurica'



I. suaveolens



I. taochia



'Atroviolacea'

triploid from a cross between *I. pumila* and *I. lutescens*.

Iris* x *barthii This is a very cute and garden-worthy dwarf. Apparently a natural hybrid of the tetraploid species *I. pumila* and *I. aphylla*, it's yellow with exaggerated fluffy light blue beards. My clone developed brown streaks and then declined, apparently the victim of a virus.

How to Learn More about the Iris Species:

Join SIGNA! A one-year membership is \$12. The SIGNA Checklist is a great reference for species iris information. For more information on purchasing the SIGNA Checklist, contact Bob Pries. His contact information can be found in the AIS Directory.

Sources of Species Bearded Irises:

There are few commercial sources of bearded species rhizomes. I have relied on personal contacts for many of my acquisitions. You may want to try growing them from seed. Good sources are the SIGNA Seed Exchange, the BIS Seed Exchange, the North American Rock Garden Society Seed Exchange, the Alpine Garden Society Seed Exchange and a commercial source, JJA Seeds of Jim and Jenny Archibald. ♪



Iris x *barthii*

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Compiled by Donna James, Donations Secretary

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How to Make your Donation to One of the AIS Funds

Donations to AIS Fund Accounts should be made payable to: AIS or the American Iris Society.

Mail to Donna James, 887 County Route 3, Hannibal, NY 13074-2356; (315) 598-3346; AISDonationsSec@irises.org

Clearly identify on a separate piece of paper:

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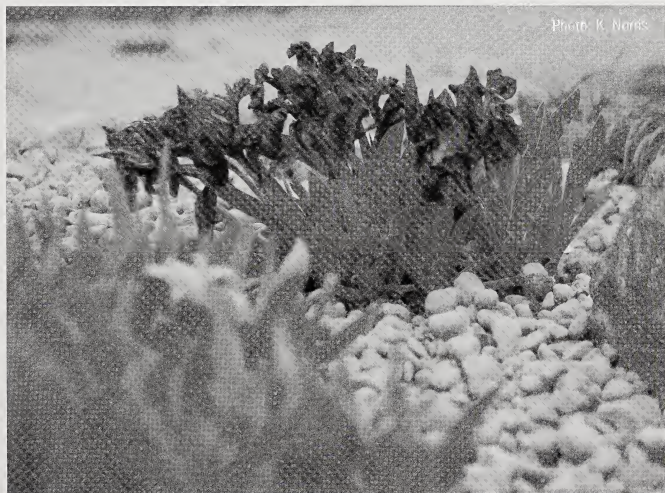


Photo: K. Norris

Clones of dwarf species grown from seed.

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A picture is worth a thousand words. For an interesting and educational meeting, an AIS Slide or Digital program may satisfy and stimulate your chapter's interest in all types of irises.

Cost: The rental fee is \$10.00 plus \$5.00 shipping. AIS Affiliate Chapters are entitled to one free set per year plus \$5.00 shipping payable to AIS, and mailed to the address below. Only one set is allowed per request date. Slides are to be returned by Priority Mail the day after viewing.

To Order: Requests for specific slide sets should be made well in advance, preferably four to six weeks. Please request alternate choices. Clearly print your name, address, phone number, and date of meeting if you mail your request by regular mail.

The following slide programs are available for rent:

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AIS National Conventions of: 2003, 2004

The Iris Family (This updated set is an introduction to the world of iris. It shows the different classes of bearded and beardless iris and the different species of iris. It can be used for all levels of viewers, new to experienced iris growers. Great for garden club programs.)

Iris Trivia (Soon also available on CD): This is a small set with questions that can be used for fun and informative meetings.

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The following digital programs are available for purchase — each \$15.00 including postage:

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Dykes Medal Winners

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The Iris Family

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To rent slide sets or to purchase CDs, contact:

Janet Smith, P O Box 1585, Coarsegold, CA 93614-1585

(559) 683-0447 (Home and FAX line)

E-mail: AISSlides@irises.org

Due to the increased usage of digital pictures in lieu of Slides, there are few NEW Slide programs.

Many Affiliates still request only Slides Programs. If you have slides of Newer irises, we would appreciate having them to make new Slide programs as copying digital to slides is very expensive. Please send them priority mail and we will promptly have them copied and return to you.

Members and Affiliates:

We have many new CD programs "in the works" including: "Iris Show Designs", "Irises Through The Seasons", "Gardens Delights", "Iris Color Patterns and Definitions". If you have suggestions for new iris programs or have a great presentation on irises you would like to share with others, please contact me and we'll see about incorporating it into the AIS Slides Program!

Hybridizers:

Each year we will put together a program for "NEW INTRODUCTIONS". We request both slides and digital pictures of your 2008 introductions. This is a great opportunity for new introductions to be seen in different parts of the country and whet the appetites of already confirmed iris lovers for new and different varieties and types of irises. Be sure to send your BEST photographs for this is your "face" to the iris buying public! We show the Hybridizers in alphabetic order with an intro slide with the Name, Address, Telephone, e-mail and website address for each. We do reserve the right to limit the total number of pictures to fit in a presentation time frame.

AIS Storefront

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The World of Irises

Highly recommended! 32 pages of full color. Edited by Warburton and Hamblen, 34 contributors and authors including international authorities. Published in 1978 and most authoritative book on all phases of irises. Scientific and popular. 6" x 9" hard bound cloth cover, 494 pages. \$15.00
Quantity discounts: 20% off for 10 or more / 40% off for 100 or more

Handbook for Judges and Show Officials

New release! Seventh Edition ©2007. Insert (new pages) \$12.00.

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Prices include postage and handling. The Storefront ships via media mail. Priority, overnight and UPS shipment charges paid by customer. Make checks payable to The American Iris Society, or include charge card information. Send order to: John and Kay Ludi
P.O. Box 956, Sandy, OR 97055; (503) 826-8808; <AISStore@irises.org>

SECTION SLIDES AVAILABLE:

The various Sections of AIS also have slide sets available for rent. These feature irises of each respective group. Requests for these slide sets should be submitted as follows:

Arils and Arilbreds: Order from Scott Jordan, 3500 Avenida Charada NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107. Rental fee \$7.50. Check to Aril Society International.

Dwarf: Dorothy Willott, 26231 Shaker Boulevard, Beachwood, OH 44122-7111. Check for \$7.50 to Dwarf Iris Society.

Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS): Contact Ron James, 887 County Route 3, Hannibal, NY 13074; <ron2don@alltel.net> Rental fee \$10.00. Check to HIPS.

Japanese: Order from John Coble, 9823 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053. Check for \$5.00 to Society for Japanese Irises.

Louisiana: Donna Wolford, 2605 Oakhaven Street, Palm Bay, FL 32905; (321) 724-1676; <n8kxp@cfl.rr.com>; \$10 check to SLI.

Medians: Contact Terry Aitken, 608 NW 119th St, Vancouver WA 98685. Check for \$5.00 to Median Iris Society (MIS). One set free per year to affiliates.

Pacific Coast Native Irises: Contact Terri Hudson, 33450 Little Valley Road, Fort Bragg, CA 95437; (707) 964 3907; <irishud@earthlink.net>. Rental fee \$7.50 to SPCNI. Two sets available, species or hybrids.

Rebloomers: Contact George Sutton, 16592 Road 208, Porterville, CA 93257; <info@suttoniris.com>. Check to Reblooming Iris Society. Rental fee is \$7.50.

Siberians: Order from Robert Hollingworth, 124 Sherwood Rd E, Williamston, MI 48895. Check for \$10.00 to Society for Siberian Irises.

Species: Several sets available. Order from Mike Zuraw, 1 Pondview Drive, Bethel, CT 06801-1266; <mjzuraw@aol.com>. Check for \$10.00 to SIGNA.

Spurias: To order, contact Riley Probst, 2701 Fine Ave., Modesto, CA 95355; (314) 346 7999; <rprobst02@earthlink.net>. Check for \$10.00 to Spuria Iris Society.

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“Without advertising, a terrible thing happens... nothing!”

Ad Submission Requirements

To place an ad, please contact the advertising editor. All ads must have a hard copy submitted to the advertising editor. List of specifications regarding digital submissions is available. *We can not accept MS Publisher or WordPerfect files, as we do not have software to open them.* Payment is due with ad copy. The deadlines for ad submissions are as follows: August 15 (October issue); November 15 (January issue), February 15 (April issue), May 15 (July issue). Send ad and payment (payable to AIS) to: George Sutton.

Shopping Section

Found in the back of each *Bulletin*. Placement is roughly alphabetical. Rate is for 4 issues. All ads are 2½ inch wide.

\$44.00	15/16 inch
\$60.00	1 15/16 inch
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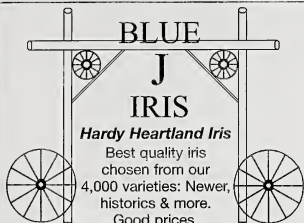
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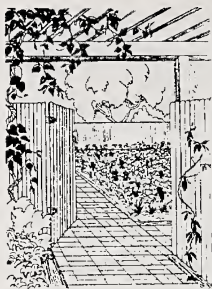
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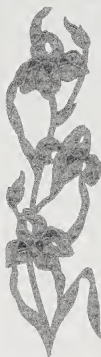
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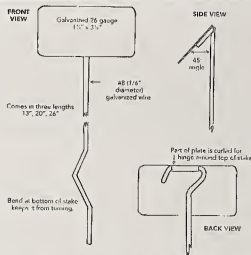
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